FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 249 *28 December 1982*

ARGENTINA

Military Wants Elections on 12 October 1983 B 1
[CLARIN 26 Dec]
Foreign Ministry Disagrees With Calvi Speech B 1
Varied Reactions to Government Wage Grant B 2
CGT-Azopardo Welcomes Increase B 2
CGT-Brasil: Salary Hike 'Unsatisfactory' B 2
9 Million Minimum Wage Demanded B 2
Motor Transport Workers Suspend Work Stoppage B 3
Italian Congress Committee's Visit Criticized B 3
[CONVICCION 21 Dec]
Judge Releases List of Names of Buried Bodies B 4
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 21 Dec]
Human Rights Group on Deceased [BUENOS AIRES HERALD 22 Dec] B 4
Police Ban Falklands Veterans' Observance B 5
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 24 Dec]
Gendarmerie Reports Promotions, Retirements B 5
[LA NACION 19 Dec]

BRAZIL

Saraiva Speaks on Suriname, Other Issues D 1
[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 24 Dec]
PDT, PTB Leaders Announce Merger in Early 1983 D 2
[LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST 24-27 Dec]
Government Party Seeks Alliance With PTB D 2
Langoni Returns, Remarks on IMF Loan D 2
New Economic Measures for 1983 Outlined [JORNAL DO BRASIL 17 Dec] D 3

COLOMBIA

Government Announces New Prices for Fuel F 1
Guerrillas Fail in Attempt To Take Over Town F 1
Briefs: New Ambassadors F 1

PARAGUAY

Police Arrest 3 JLRA Leaders, Laino Relative H 1
[ULTIMA HORA 27 Dec]
Argentina's UCR Offers To Reprint Laino's Book H 1
[ABC COLOR 27 Dec]
Briefs: Exile Monthly News Bulletin H 1

PERU

Armed Forces Take Part in Antiterrorism Fight J 1
Involvement Conditioned J 1
Actions Begin J 1
Terrorists Murder Ayacucho District Mayor J 2
Havana Cites Belaunde Appeal to Guerrillas J 2
5-Year Plan Underway To Upgrade War Materiel J 2
Minister Denies 26 Mirages Purchased J 3
Briefs: Yugoslav Line of Credit; Petroperu Finds Oil J 3

MEXICO

Newsmen Protest Proposed 'Gag Law' Amendments M 1
Pemex Reports on 1982 Sales of Petrochemicals M 1

PANAMA

Salvador's Chavez Mena Receives Decoration N 1
[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 22 Dec]
Spadafora Resigns Party, Joins Anti-Sandinists N 2
PDC Communique Criticizes Paredes 'Intervention' N 2
[LA PRENSA 22 Dec]
Conep President on Rejection of Reagan Plan N 3
Columnist Hails Defeat of Caribbean Basin Plan N 4
[LA REPUBLICA 23 Dec]
Paper Praises New U.S. Ambassador's Approach N 5
[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 23 Dec]
Culture Front Denounces Rios Montt Regime [Havana] N 5
Comptroller Issues Report on Budget Deficit N 5
[LA PRENSA 23 Dec]
LA PRENSA Accused of Swinging to Left N 6
[LA REPUBLICA 22 Dec]
Briefs: National Debt Figure; New Papal Nuncio Named; N 6
Balboa Police Chief

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Cuban Political Prisoners Authorized Entrance P 1

EL SALVADOR

Arena Health Minister Reportedly To Be Replaced P 1
Paper Deplores Trend Against Reagan's Opinion P 2
[EL SALVADOR NEWS-GAZETTE 13-19 Dec]

GUATEMALA

Government Extends State of Siege for 30 Days P 3
Rios Montt Accepts Bank President's Resignation P 3
Paper Prints Manifesto of Suazo Kidnappers P 3
[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 22 Dec]

HONDURAS

Military Commanders Meet With Sandinist Officers P 11
LA PRENSA Speculates on Cabinet Changes [27 Dec] P 12

NICARAGUA

Security Forces Kill 5 Counterrevolutionaries P 12
Havana Cites Counterrevolutionary Plot, Clash P 13
Sandinists Defeat 'Counterrevolutionary Plans' P 13
Two Counterrevolutionaries' Leaders Killed P 13
Tirado Lopez Praises USSR on 60th Anniversary P 14
Havana Reports Wheelock Visiting Bulgaria P 17
D'Escoto Says Nonaligned Meeting U.S. 'Defeat' P 17
Visiting DPRK Vice Minister on U.S. Policy P 17
Briefs: EEC Development Aid; Consular Agreement With GDR; P 17
Reserve Battalions Return

CUBA

Text of Castro Speech to FEU Congress in Havana Q 1
Castro Sends Congratulatory Note to USSR Q 18
National Assembly Marks USSR 60th Anniversary Q 18
Raul Castro Presents Award to Lenin Academy Q 19
ANPP Opens Third Regular Session in Havana Q 20
State Council Seat Filled Q 20

OTHER COUNTRIES

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Haitian Suspected of Arming Extremists, Exiles V 1

ECUADOR

Minister Denies Weapons Sent to Argentina V 1

GUYANA

Jagan Calls for Removal of Burnham Government V 2

URUGUAY

Councilmen Criticize Arismendi Economic Policy V 3

MILITARY WANTS ELECTIONS ON 12 OCTOBER 1983

PY271302 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 26 Dec 82 pp 12, 13

[From the "Political Panorama" page: "A Good Remedy To While Away the Summer" by Joaquin Morales Sola -- passages in upper case indicate boldface as published]

[Excerpts] PRESIDENT BIGNONE'S GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN THE REVOLVER AWAY FROM ITS OWN HEAD AT THE VERY MOMENT WHEN EVERYONE WAS EXPECTING POLITICAL SUICIDE. IT PARTLY USED THE LAST IMPORTANT CARD LEFT TO THE REGIME: THE DATE OF THE ELECTIONS; GRANTED A SALARY hike which assuaged social protests and started to DEAL WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE by commuting the sentences of 82 PERSONS SENTENCED BY COURTS-MARTIAL.

All this gave rise to an atmosphere OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RELAXATION DURING A WEEK FRAUGHT WITH TRAGIC EXPECTATIONS, during which DOUBTS WERE RAISED concerning the ability of the current political leadership of this military experiment to STAY IN POWER.

During the past week, THE LEVEL OF RUMOERS CONCERNING COUPS D'ETAT AND MILITARY UPRISINGS REACHED THE DANGER POINT, acquiring a VIRULENCE known only AT THE VERY BEGINNING of BIGNONE'S administration.

In any case, the government RESORTED TO THE MOST PAINFUL DECISION OF ANY REGIME: THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE APPROXIMATE DATE OF ITS POLITICAL DEMISE. The Argentine military administration which had envisaged A WITHDRAWAL ENVELOPED IN THE SOUND OF BANDS AND SONGS OF GLORY, must now accept A SILENT ECLIPSE, THE BITTER AND GRAY TWILIGHT OF LOST TIME.

In principle the military has chosen 12 October 1983 as the date for the elections but they do not know for sure WHETHER THEY WILL HAVE TO ADVANCE THE ELECTIONS OR NOT and they prefer, in any case, TO ESTABLISH A TIMETABLE AFTER EXCHANGING OPINIONS WITH CIVILIAN LEADERS.

The politicians really wanted A DEFINITE DATE but they were not displeased by the establishment OF A FINAL DEADLINE NOT LATER THAN SUNDAY, 6 NOVEMBER : "A STEP AHEAD IS ALWAYS WELCOME," they claim.

FOREIGN MINISTRY DISAGREES WITH CALVI SPEECH

PY272326 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2017 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Dec (NA) -- A high-ranking Foreign Ministry source has expressed his "disagreement" with the ideas expressed in the speech delivered last night by Gen Edgardo Calvi, the army chief of staff, during a ceremony held to decorate the South African military attache.

During the ceremony, Maj General Calvi noted that both Argentina and South Africa "have the same enemies" since both countries share similar ideals. During the ceremony in which Col Johan du Preez Goetze was decorated, Calvi also said that both countries are "potential guardians of the South Atlantic."
The Foreign Ministry source noted that "the position put forth by Calvi is not in keeping with the one that the Foreign Ministry has been advocating over the past several years in the Nonaligned Movement." Moreover, the source added that "Argentina has constantly condemned South Africa for its 'apartheid' policy.

"Documents signed by Argentina at the international level should be viewed in this light."

Answering a question asked by NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, the diplomatic source noted that he did not know whether this speech was going to be "a subject to be discussed" at a meeting to be held between President Bignone and the foreign minister.

VARIED REACTIONS TO GOVERNMENT'S WAGE GRANT

CGT-Azopardo Welcomes Increase

PY230217 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0120 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 22 Dec (NA) -- The leaders of the two General Labor Confederation branches, with headquarters on Azopardo and Brasil Streets [CGT-Azopardo and CGT-Brasil], will hold meetings tomorrow to study the salary increase announced by the government today. That increase reportedly does not satisfy the labor organization headed by Saul Ubaldini [CGT-Brasil].

Today Luis Etchezar and Antonio Baldassini, two fo the secretaries general of the CGT-Azopardo, said that in their opinion the salary announcement helps alleviate the serious outlook of the social situation and is, therefore, well received.

The CGT-Azopardo will state its official position on the question after the meeting of its Directive Council, to be held tomorrow at [word indistinct].

CGT-Brasil: Salary Hike 'Unsatisfactory'

PY222342 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2313 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Dec (DYN) -- The leaders of the General Labor Confederation with headquarters on Brasil Street [CGT-Brasil] have stated their opinion that the salary increase granted by the government is totally unsatisfactory. They state that they will hold a joint meeting with the Peronist 62 Organizations tomorrow at 1000 to make a joint decision regarding the subject.

Roberto Garcia (taxi drivers' union), member of the Directive Council of the CGT-Brasil, stated that "the salary hike of 1 million pesos is a mockery of the needs of the workers," while Horacio Alonso (court employees) said that "it is only a palliative which does not improve the critical salary situation."

9 Million Minimum Wage Demanded

PY232331 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2247 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Dec (DYN) -- The Brasil faction of the General Labor Confederation, CGT, today demanded that the government establish a minimum flexible salary of 9 million pesos. This salary "must then be adjusted quarterly in keeping with the cost of living."

The labor union issued a communique entitled: "Starvation Salaries Bring No Justice and Without Justice There is No Democracy." The CGT also asked that the nation's economy be declared in a state of emergency.

MOTOR TRANSPORT WORKERS SUSPEND WORK STOPPAGE

PY232229 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1638 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Dec (TELAM) -- According to an announcement made at noon today by Miguel Alberto Rios, secretary general of the Motor Transport Workers Union (UTA), the transport stoppage decreed for today, tomorrow, the 30th and 31st has been suspended. Rios stated that the Executive Board has decided to suspend the direct actions scheduled for today, tomorrow the 30th and 31st, but will maintain an attitude open to dialogue seeking an agreement which will satisfy the sector.

ITALIAN CONGRESS COMMITTEE'S VISIT CRITICIZED

PY232315 Buenos Aires CONVICCION in Spanish 21 Dec 82 p 8

[Editorial: "Widespread Rejection of Foreign Interference" -- passages in upper case indicate boldface as published]

[Text] The current situation does not call for superficial irony or arguments overly concerned with the intricacies of the moment. The best we can do is restrict ourselves to facts and allow them to speak for themselves to see how eloquent they really are. Without further ado this is the matter at hand: the INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ITALIAN CONGRESS is in Argentina. Its main objective, barring a few insignificant items, is to INSPECT IN THE FIELD THE PROBLEM OF "MISSING PEOPLE," THAT IS, THOSE WHO DIED DURING THE STRUGGLE AGAINST TERRORISM AND ORGANIZED SUBVERSION, who have Italian blood to any degree, in keeping with the "jus sanguinis" principle which Argentina and all American nations reject as strongly as they are supposed to oppose interference like this, which is OFFENSIVE TO ITS SOVEREIGNTY.

As CONVICCION has said many times, FEW so far have been the voices raised from government and political or union organizations REPUDIATING the crude interference in domestic Argentine affairs by this INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE WHICH ITALY HAS BEEN GOOD ENOUGH TO SEND US.

However, there have been a few significant exceptions to the silence, shameful to all Argentines, with which this matter has been handled. Among the voices raised repudiating this INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE are first of all those of FEDITALIA the GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF ITALIAN FEDERATIONS IN ARGENTINA, an organization which stands for ALL Italian institutions in the country, institutions which represent the largest foreign community that lives and works within Argentine society. Concretely FEDITALIA stated that "the idea of sending a delegation (...) is inappropriate for the following reasons: because there does not seem to be a solution for these missing people, BECAUSE IT GOES AGAINST THE PRINCIPLE, UPHELD NOT ONLY BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT BUT ALSO BY MOST ARGENTINE PEOPLE, THAT THIS PROBLEM MUST BE RESOLVED BY ARGENTINES SINCE IT IS AN ARGENTINE PROBLEM AND, THEREFORE, IDEAS LIKE THIS ONE ARE VIEWED AS IRRITATING INTERFERENCES. Many INFLUENTIAL CIRCLES have judged matters in this way because, in keeping with the above argument, although this action does not contribute to the solution of the great problems, it undermines the ties between Italy and not only the Argentine Government but also most Argentine people. In addition, it has a negative influence on the feeling of friendship and esteem toward Italy and the resident Italian community in Argentina."

It is encouraging that the voices of CARLOS CONTIN of the Radical Civic Union and of FELIPE BITTEL of the Justicialist Party have joined FEDITALIA. When CONTIN was asked whether he had been invited to hold talks with the investigative committee, he said: "We believe it would be inappropriate because we do not have to provide information concerning these events to people coming from abroad." He then added: "THE SUBJECT OF THE MISSING PEOPLE IS AN ARGENTINE PROBLEM, AND WE WILL RESOLVE IT AMONG OURSELVES." His stand was reaffirmed by Justicialist leader DEOLINDO FELIPE BITTEL who said: "IT IS TRUE, WE REJECTED THE INVITATION. I have other things to do in my party." Thus, in connection with this decisive issue IMPORTANT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY AND SELF-RESPECT OF THE ARGENTINE NATION, there seems to be an awareness or at least the beginning of an awareness, which is spreading. This awareness is essential, not only in this particular case, but because of the inalienable need of the country to REAFFIRM ITS NATIONAL UNITY. This is the real issue.

JUDGE RELEASES LIST OF NAMES OF BURIED BODIES

PY221902 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 21 Dec 82 p 1

[Excerpts] (NA-DYN) -- A list identifying 76 bodies which had been buried under the denomination NN at the Buenos Aires Chacarita Cemetery was made public by Judge Raul Hector Pierini yesterday.

The bodies had been buried at Chacarita following allegedly illegal procedures at the judicial morgue which are being investigated by Judge Pierini. The bodies correspond to the years 1976, 1977 and 1978, during which the highest number of "disappearances" occurred in the "dirty war" against subversion. The list includes 23 names corresponding to NN burials and to 53 bodies which have been returned to their relatives.

The judges said that further lists will be released as new information regarding the burial is discovered.

Human Rights Group on Deceased

PY221903 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 22 Dec 82 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- At least nine of the 76 bodies whose identity was released on Monday by Judge Raul Pierini belong to missing persons whose relatives have asked the government or the courts for information about their fate, human rights campaigners said yesterday.

The Centre for Legal and Social Studies (CELS) issued a statement saying that the identification of the bodies buried at Chacarita Cemetery "confirms the serious assumption that the court morgue acted in open violation of the law" in ordering the burial of unidentified bodies.

But Pierini yesterday released a new statement clearing pu what he said was a "misinterpretation" of the original lists by the press.

Pierini said that all of the 76 people whose names he released were listed as having been killed in armed confrontations with the military or joint forces, but that only four of the bodies were actually buried as "N.N." at Chacarita.

He said the rest were buried under their correct names or handed over the their families, according to the morgue and cemetery records.

CELS said that the court morgue acted under orders from military authorities and that "several of the burials released (by Pierini) are based on the homicide or assassination of the victims."

The human rights group's statement also claims that relatives of some of the 53 bodies listed as having been returned to their families "were forced to sign documents in which they admitted the death had occurred in an armed clash with the military, in order to retrieve the body." CELS emphasized that this was the case when the victim had been abducted from his or her home.

POLICE BAN FALKLANDS VETERANS' OBSERVANCE

PY241716 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 24 Dec 82 p 7

[Text] (DYN) -- Police banned the observance of a mass organized by the Malvinas Veterans Centre that was to be held at the Simon Bolivar Monument in the Lezica Park of the capital yesterday. The organization previously was denied permission to have the meeting because it is not recognized by the government. The former soldiers and their family members who accompanied them were stopped by uniformed and plainclothes police. At one point, before being dispersed by the police, the veterans sang the national anthem and passed out leaflets that said: "Today they banned our mass because we are not a political party, tomorrow will they ban us from being Argentines?"

GENDARMERIE REPORTS PROMOTIONS, RETIREMENTS

PY241559 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 19 Dec 82 p 12

[Text] The National Gendarmerie has reported that the retirement applications filed by Maj Gens [Comandantes Generales] Hector Parcellier and Nestor O. Brizuela have been accepted. Maj Gen Hector Parcellier was serving as chief of Region I and Maj Gen Nestor Brizuela as operations director. Brig Gen [Comandante Mayor] Emilio Rius, communications director, has also gone into retirement.

The following brigadier generals will be promoted on 30 December: Joaquin Matias Urruty, Luis Antonio Cerutti, Felipe Grimaldi and Octavio Zirone.

In keeping with the above promotions and retirements, the National Gendarmerie's top echelon will be made up as follows: Maj Gen Antonio Becich will continue to be National Gendarmerie deputy director and Maj Gen Carlos Schurlein will continue to be personnel director. Brig Gen Jorge Marquez will be intelligence director; Maj Gen Arturo Lepetegui, operations director; Maj Gen Juan C. Sordo, logistics director; and Brig Gen Antonio German Colecchia, finance director.

The regions' chiefs will be: Maj Gen Antonio Roman, chief of Region I; Brig Gen Joaquin Urruty, of Region II; Brig Gen Luis A. Cerutti, of Region III; Brig Gen Octavio Zirone, of Region IV; and Brig Gen Felipe Grimaldi, of Region V. Brig Gen Walter Juan Barbero will serve as chief of gendarmerie institutes and Brig Gen Ernesto Hanse Larramendy will be secretary general.

SARAIVA SPEAKS ON SURINAME, OTHER ISSUES

PY280232 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Dec 82 p 4

[Text] Brasilia -- Expressing "hope that Suriname will not be turned into a cause in the East-West confrontation," Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro also expressed hope that the former Dutch Guiana will not become "a source of danger to Brazil's security, which Brazil will obviously never tolerate from any country, be it a superpower, a medium- or small-sized power or whatever."

He stated, however, that "what is happening in Suriname regardless of how regrettable it is, is a domestic problem of that country in which we do not want to meddle." The foreign minister granted an interview to an EFE correspondent and Itamaraty released the full text of the interview yesterday.

Referring still to Suriname, the foreign minister expressed his conviction that the Paramaribo government "whatever it may be, must be thinking of the interests of Suriname and not in any kind of nonsense." He warned, however, that "a developing country will only lose if it decides to join the game in the East-West conflict, or lets itself become involved in this conflict instead of adopting every measure to avoid it."

Central America

Saraiva Guerreiro also said that Brazil does not have "significant influence in the region (Central America) nor the means to act more directly there." He added that "the countries in that area -- and it is easy to speak from the outside and without the emotions that necessarily exist at these times -- must try to find a solution that will be in keeping with their own situation, and only in this manner will they be able to change the situation in time; they must not to seek magic and schematic formulas which may come from a purely ideological conception of the world."

Saraiva Guerreiro rejected the suggestion of former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger that "Brazil could be the ideal springboard for the U.S. Latin American policy." Saraiva Guerreiro said that the idea of springboard or of intermediation "seems to be a rather simplified way to implement a foreign policy."

Crisis Since August

The Brazilian foreign minister also drew a picture of the financial crisis in Latin American countries, citing the difficulties that Mexico and Argentina have endured during the year.

"In the case of Brazil," he stated the debt was staggered for a longer period and because of this we were paying a greater 'spread' [given in English] but by August 1982 we began to feel a contraction of the international financial system when it came to longer-term loans."

Saraiva Guerreiro also discussed foreign policy guidelines for Africa and Latin America, and stressed that they have no reason to change as a consequences of the crisis. "On the contrary," he stated, "the crisis shows that they are correct guidelines." He said that the economic crisis has negative effects "not on the policy but on the implementation because it limits the means of action of each one of us."

PDT, PTB LEADERS ANNOUNCE MERGER EARLY 1983

PY252025 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 24-27 Dec 82 p 5

[From the "Brazil's Week in Review" column]

[Text] Also on the political scene, Rio de Janeiro's governor-elect Leonel Brizola of the PDT [Democratic Labor Party] party and Ivette Vargas of the rival PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] party this week announced plans to definitely join the two parties. A formal political manifesto is expected to be released towards the beginning of 1983 which will serve as the basis for the merger.

After visiting Vargas in the hospital where she was being treated for a pulmonary infection, Brizola said "we discussed, in general terms, the unification of the pro-workers parties and we both agreed that this unification is in the best interests of the Brazilian worker." Our meeting served to extinguish all of the hostilities and misunderstandings that developed during the campaign," Ms. Vargas said.

Meanwhile, Luis Inacio da Silva (Lula) president of the PT [Workers Party] party said his party does not want to have anything to do with the PTP or the PDT.

GOVERNMENT PARTY SEEKS ALLIANCE WITH PTB

PY271338 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Relayed report from Brasilia]

[Text] An alliance between the PDS [Social Democratic Party] and the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] is the main political subject which monopolized the attention of all the officials present here in Brasilia. The PDS seems to be worried about consolidating as soon as possible this coalition which would allow the government to maintain the congressional majority in the chamber of deputies. The PDS still needs five deputies to gain the absolute majority of 240 congressmen, so as to win approval for its projects without any problems.

Government deputy leader Deputy Edson Lobao has admitted the possibility of giving a ministry to a PTB representative, in the person of its president, Ivette Vargas, to allow a coalition with the PDS. Edson Lobao feels that it would be easier to achieve a formal coalition of the PDS with the PTB, the opposition party considered more flexible to an understanding with the government.

PDS representatives intensified understandings with the PTB last week, concerned over the meeting between PDT [Democratic Labor Party] President Leonel Brizola, governor-elect for Rio de Janeiro, with Deputy Ivette Vargas. Brizola and Vargas discussed the merger of thier parties.

After the meeting with Civilian Household Chief Leitao de Abreu, PDS President Senator Jose Sarney also visited Deputy Ivette Vargas.

LANGONI RETURNS, REMARKS ON IMF LOAN

PY231350 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Carlos Langoni, the president of the Central Bank, has returned from the United States bringing a denial and a piece of information.

The denial refers to remarks made by Jaques Larosiere, an IMF director, who states that the Brazilian Government has assumed a commitment with the IMF in a letter of intention that states that inflation will be reduced to 20 percent by 1985.

Another piece of information, which has been extensively disseminated, indicates that President Figueiredo will release the letter of intention as soon as it has been approved and signed.

Referring to remarks made by businessmen who met with members of the international financial community, Langoni acknowledged that the deadline for the granting of funds is short and he fears that it may not be possible to receive the funds by 31 December. He said that some pressure must be applied for a quick decision to overcome this situation.

NEW ECONOMIC MEASURES FOR 1983 OUTLINED

PY221824 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 17 Dec 82 p 15

[Text] The following are the main measures that will be a part of the economic readjustment to take place in 1983 and were adopted yesterday by the National Monetary Council; they are based on the IMF's plan for the next 3 years:

Subsidies will be withdrawn as quickly as possible in order to reduce the public deficit. Oil products, wheat and sugar will be the items most affected. Sugar refineries will have the surcharge on sugar exports increased from 10 to 15 percent.

State enterprises will have to reduce their deficits substantially in order not to have to resort to treasury resources and in order not to place pressure on the internal and external credit markets. There will be a heavy reduction in real investment and in costs (personnel and the administrative apparatus).

The fiscal budget will provide 2.4 trillion cruzeiros for consumer goods subsidies and for lines of credit that in the past were financed through monetary expansion. Monetary expansion (money in the hands of the public plus demand deposits in banks) will amount to 60 percent. The Bank of Brazil's lending expansion will also amount to 60 percent. The lending expansion of banks and financial organizations will be increased by 10 percent every 3 months. Banks will have to keep 45 percent of their deposits with the Central Bank.

The Central Bank will receive, through the BNH [National Housing bank] 80 percent of the resources of the FAL -- the Liquidity Assistance Fund -- and 20 percent of the resources that the federal savings fund obtains from savings accounts in order to finance exports, which will increase by 1.92 trillion cruzeiros in 1983.

The interest rates of the agricultural line of credit will be tied to the CPI, with readjustments in June and December of each year.

The level of the exchange reserves must be recovered in 1983.

And finally, a strategy has been adopted to correct the difference between the cruzeiro and the real rate of exchange with mini-devaluations that will be 1 percent higher than Brazilian inflation, thus containing external inflation. At the end of 1983 the cruzeiro will have been devalued by 12.7 percent, in addition to the percentage corresponding to inflation, which must decrease to the level of 70 percent.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES NEW PRICES FOR FUEL

PA251636 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Bogota -- Effective today at 0800, there will be new fuel prices throughout the country.

The new prices reflect at 21.8-percent readjustment of the previous prices.

According to government decrees, here are the new prices per gallon: regular gasoline, 67 pesos; extra gasoline 76 pesos; kerosene 67 pesos; and (acpm) [not further identified] also 67 pesos.

There fuel prices will be in effect in Bogota, Medellin, Cartago, Cali, Cartagena, Barrancabermeja, Plato and Tibu.

GUERRILLAS FAIL IN ATTEMPT TO TAKE OVER TOWN

PA280420 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Dec 82

[Text] Medellin -- Two hundred members of the so-called Peoples Liberation Army, EPL, failed today in an attempt to take over the town of Arboletes, according to fragmentary information arriving in Medellin. Military officials did not confirm or deny the reports.

The newsmen of Cadena Radial Super learned that the guerrillas were repelled by local policemen, who killed one of the subversives.

Unofficial spokesmen of Government House of Antioquia said that a helicopter had been sent to the site in an attempt to ascertain the facts, because telephone and radio communications were very poor.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADORS -- Bogota, 15 Dec (EFE) -- The Colombian Government has appointed the following new ambassador: Humberto Gonzalez Narvaez to Argentina, Jose Gonzalo Forero Delgadillo to Honduras, Diego Tovar Concha to Peru, Jose Antonio Lecoutore to Trinidad and Tobago, Alberto Lozano Simonelli to Belgium, Carlos Daniel Roca to Hungary, Alvaro de Angulo to Yugoslavia and Virginia Obregon to Egypt. [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0347 GMT 16 Dec 82 PA]

POLICE ARREST 3 JLRA LEADERS, LAINO RELATIVE

PY272129 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 27 Dec 82 p 9

[Text] Three leaders of the Authentic Radical Liberal Youth [JLRA], a youth faction of the opposition party led by Dr Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin, were arrested by police authorities this morning. At the same time, Dr Miguel Abdon Saguier, political secretary of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA], told ULTIMA HORA that Dr Domingo Laino's home was raided again and that police officers arrested Luis Manuel Guanes Gondra, Laino's brother-in-law.

The JLRA leaders were arrested in the street at 0300 [0600 GMT] this morning, presumably for writing slogans on the walls of private buildings. The arrested leaders are Alfredo Boccia, secretary for youth affairs of the PLRA's board of directors; Felipe Amarilla and Ramon Ignacio Fernandez. Police officers informed Dr Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin of the JLRA youths' arrest this morning. The three detainees have reportedly been moved from police headquarters to the investigations department.

Slogans such as "three cheers for Dr Laino" were sprayed on the walls of houses and buildings, especially of those located on Dupuis Street (Quinta Avenue).

Mr Luis Manuel Guanes Gondra, Dr Laino's brother-in-law, was arrested at approximately 0800 [1100 GMT] this morning, according to a report made by Guanes Gondra's relatives. The police reportedly also seized assorted books as well as some of the Christmas cards that were sent to the expelled leader's family.

ARGENTINA'S UCR OFFERS TO REPRINT LAINO'S BOOK

PY272205 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 27 Dec 82 p 12

[Excerpt] The Movement for Renewal and Change of Argentine's Radical Civic Union [UCR] has offered Dr Domingo Laino, vice chairman of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party's (PLRA) board of directors, to reprint his book "The Merchant General" (Somoza), which was seized by the police. UCR presidential candidate Raul Alfonsin sent a letter to Dr Laino in this regard. A copy of this letter was delivered to ABC COLOR by PLRA leader Dr Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin. In his letter, Alfonsin told Laino that he had learned of his expulsion from the country, and that no Latin American democrat could "remain impassive in the light of such an event."

"You are enduring the punishment of expulsion for writing, according to what we learned, a book entitled "The Merchant General" (Somoza). The book refers to General Somoza's life, of whom we have a sad memory. Having to leave one's homeland is a bitter punishment for those who dream of a different country, of a country in which democracy, hope and justice will prevail. As proof of my support for your cause, the Movement for Renewal and Change, which is always mindful of the aspirations of our people, offers to reprint your book," the letter states.

BRIEFS

EXILE MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN -- Paris, 12 Dec (AFP) -- The first issue of the monthly news bulletin PARAGUAY has appeared in Paris. The bulletin, which is sponsored by France-Amerique Latine -- an independent French cooperation organization -- is edited by Paraguayan exiles who are against Gen Alfredo Stroessner's regime. The bulletin uses Paraguayan newspapers and magazines as sources of information, and it is designed to voice solidarity with the National Accord, the human rights' commission, the farmers movement, independent labor unions and all the forces that are struggling to improve the country's situation. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1455 GMT 12 Dec 82 PY]

ARMED FORCES TAKE PART IN ANTITERRORIST FIGHT

Involvement Conditioned

PY272210 Tacna Radio Tacna in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Text] During a secret meeting held by high-ranking military officers until the early hours of Tuesday, 21 December, the three armed forces decided that the army will intervene in the three departments where terrorist actions have prevailed, namely, Ayacucho, Apurimac and Huancavelica. However, the joint command tied the military intervention to some political and economic measures that the government will have to take, among them, that Civil Guard Gen (Juan Balaguer) should not be appointed interior minister, military sources reported.

The meeting, which was attended by approximately 320 high-ranking officers from the three services, was held at the army technical school in Chorrillos last Monday. It lasted approximately 13 hours, from 1700 until 0600 on Tuesday.

On Tuesday evening, an armed forces delegation went to Government House in order to report the military meeting's decision to President Fernando Belaunde, other ministers of the National Defense Council, Foreign Minister Javier Arias Stella and Interior Minister Jose Gagliardi. The government then decided to implement military intervention in the wake of the latest events in Ayacucho, which have resulted in selective terrorist actions.

Belaunde could not hide his annoyance at the other demands made by the joint command, which expressed doubts about the ability of Economy Minister Carlos Rodriguez Pastor and Prime Minister Fernando Schwalb to handle the country's economy. The military have also criticized the lack of government support for reinforced surveillance along the northern border, where Ecuadorean armed patrols were reportedly spotted once again.

The following day, President Belaunde announced the drastic measures that will be taken in the wake of the increased wave of terrorist actions. The president, who spoke at the republican guard training school in Puente Piedra, did not disclose the nature of the above measures.

Actions Begin

PY271458 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1816 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Lima, 24 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- Army troops were sent today to distant towns in the Andean province of Ayacucho in support of the police, who are struggling against guerrilla groups, in the first incursion of the armed forces against the insurgents.

A total of 400 officers and troops of the army's Airborne Division left Lima yesterday for Ayacucho, equipped with modern weapons and equipment , to reinforce the Los Cubitos Motorized Infantry Battalion, headquartered in that Andean capital, 572 km southeast of here.

The army support for the police takes place 2 days after President Fernando Belaunde Terry announced that the government will firmly and severely fight the guerrillas, which during this year have already killed 36 policemen and 75 civilians.

Congress last night also approved a disbursement of $20 million to finance the struggle against the insurgents, who have centered their violent activities in Ayacucho and its neighboring provinces of Apurimac and Huancavelica.

The Civil Guard (uniformed police), which is fighting the guerrillas, also strengthened its fighting unit with 400 troops. The resignation of the director general of the paramilitary corps, Gen Humberto Catter, who will be replaced by Gen Rodolfo Graham Morales, was officially reported in Lima. It was unofficially reported also in Lima that Gen Clemente Noel was given command of army actions against the insurgents. General Noel is the commanding general of the 2d Infantry Division, headquartered in Huancayo, 320 km east of here.

TERRORISTS MURDER AYACUCHO DISTRICT MAYOR

PY271500 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0712 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] Lima, 26 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- Government officials reported here last night that the mayor of Machenten, a distant Andean district within the jurisdiction of Ayacucho, was shot to death by an armed group.

Pedro Venegas, 35 years old, was shot to death in his home when he was getting ready to celebrate Christmas Eve with his family, a police source stated. The source added that after being murdered, Venegas' body was thrown on the main street, and a sign was placed by his side which read: This is how informers die.

The mayor was murdered 2 days after the Ayacucho regional director of the National Culture Institute was shot to death. Two other officials of the zone have also been wounded seriously. They were all victims of alleged members of the Maoist group Shining Path.

A contingent of 400 soldiers left on Tuesday for Ayacucho, 572 km southeast of Lima, and on the following day they were deployed to the Andean zone, supported by air force helicopters. This is the first incursion of the armed forces against the guerrilla.

HAVANA CITES BELAUNDE APPEAL TO GUERRILLAS

PA271513 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Text] Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry has urged members of armed groups operating in that country to turn themselves in to the authorities within a short time. He said that the government is trying to avoid clashes.

In his usual Sunday press conference, the Peruvian president said that although his request has no set deadline, the surrenders should come within the next 72 hours. If not, he said, innocent civilians will be hurt, because the government will resort to methods it prefers not to use.

President Belaunde said that the Peruvian Government believes in persuasion as the best means of pacifying the region of Ayacucho, in the southern Andes, the armed groups' main area of activity, but he added that pacification would be achieved one way or another.

According to information received, two people have been killed to date as a result of the police repression unleashed in the region, where army troops sent from the capital have limited their actions to patrol operations.

5-YEAR PLAN UNDERWAY TO URGRADE WAR MATERIEL

PY232255 Paris AFP in Spanish 2229 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Lima, 22 Dec (AFP) -- Aeronautics Minister Jose Garcia Calderon has reported that Peru has embarked on a 5-year plan to replace its war and support materiel. However, Minister Garcia Calderon did not give any precise details about this plan.

General Garcia explained that the plan foresees purchasing Mirage planes and other kinds of planes which he did not disclose. However, it is being asserted in reliable circles that the plan foresees purchasing 24 [as received] French-made Mirage planes. Peru has had Mirage planes for approximately the past 15 years.

The Peruvian minister stated that an attempt is being made to make an overall replacement of air, ground, defense and interception materiel, radar and other equipment.

He added that the plan, which is already underway, will be implemented over a 5-year period. He added that the plan will be implemented in a staggered fashion in keeping with the country's economic situation.

Minister Garcia conceded that some of the planes will be Mirages, but refused for obvious reasons to disclose the other kinds of planes Peru is planning to purchase. Nevertheless, it is believed that the remaining planes will be U.S. or Soviet-made.

The Peruvian Air Force, which has French, U.S., Soviet and British-made planes, is interested in maintaining the diversification of its materiel. For this reason, Peru will also begin to manufacture Machi training planes under Italian license.

Minister Garcia stated a few days ago that the purchase of Mirage planes was already underway in order to replace obsolete materiel. This makes it possible to surmise that the purchase is likely to have been concluded already.

Last Sunday, President Belaunde stated that this subject is of a confidential nature, that the aeronautics minister has all the pertinent information and that the purchase does not mean embarking on an arms race, but is simply the replacing of obsolete materiel.

Minister Denies 26 Mirages Purchased

PY280219 Paris AFP in Spanish 1828 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] Lima, 24 Dec (AFP) -- Peruvian Aeronautics Minister Jose Garcia Calderon today described reports from Paris stating that the Peruvian Air Force has purchased 26 French-made Mirage planes, as an unfounded campaign. The aeronautics minister noted that the air force will decide in due time on the type of planes and weapons it will purchase and on the amount it will invest to replace obsolete equipment. General Garcia Calderon stated that the air force will decide on these subjects within the next few months. The aeronautics minister had announced a few days ago that the Peruvian Air Force was going to replace its obsolete equipment in a staggered fashion under a 5-year plan.

BRIEFS

YUGOSLAV LINE OF CREDIT -- Lima, 20 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- Yugoslavia today opened a $150-million line of credit for Peru to purchase agricultural, mining and transport equipment. The agreement was signed tonight by Peruvian Foreign Minister Javier Arias Stella and the Yugoslav Ambassador in Lima. Arias Stella said that the loan is payable in 12 years with a grace period of 3 years. The interest rate was not disclosed. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0025 GMT 21 Dec 82 PY]

PETROPERU FINDS OIL -- Lima, 17 Dec (AFP) -- Peruvian Energy and Mines Minister Fernando Montero reported here today that Petroperu, the state oil company, has found moderate quantities of oil in the Contamana, a region in Amazonia, northeast of Lima. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0348 GMT 18 Dec 82 PY]

NEWSMEN PROTEST PROPOSED 'GAG LAW' AMENDMENTS

PA211855 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0359 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Dec (EFE) -- Several hundred newsmen gathered today in front of the Mexican Senate Building to protest an amendment to the civil code proposed by President Miguel de la Madrid. The amendment is popularly known as the "gag law."

In the Senate, Interior Secretary Manuel Bartlett Diaz was explaining to the legislators the positive side of the proposed amendment, which seeks more "responsible" information, according to the ruling PRI. Although the proposal by Miguel de la Madrid and the PRI also has the parliamentary support of the Marxist United Socialist Party, PSUM, a large sector of the nation has protested it. The independent media, and even some progovernment media, have protested that if the bill is approved, newsmen will be defenseless against the courts, some demonstrators told EFE. "The places in jail that properly belong to corrupt officials will be occupied by us newsmen who reported the
c corruption," one of the demonstrators said.

Another amendment proposed by De la Madrid would forbid government officials from giving information to newsmen, under threat of sanctions. "Thus, corruption would be protected," said the demonstrators after their protest ended at the statue of Francisco Zarco (1829-1869), a Mexican newsman who struggled for freedom of expression. The newsmen placed a gag on Zarco's statue, in a graphic representation of the implications of De la Madrid's proposed amendments.

Unless there is an unexpected change at the last minute, the Mexican Senate will ratify last week's congressional decision to support the president's proposal, thanks to the overwhelming plurality -- 199 seats out of 400 -- that the ruling government party has in the Chamber of Deputies.

The PRI's view is that, to achieve the moral renewal of society proposed by De la Madrid, it is necessary to protect society from extortion and blackmail by passing laws aimed at those who engage in that. "The proposed amendments do not violate freedom of expression, a fundamental right of every citizen, or any other constitutional guarantee," points out a PRI communique published today in Mexico City to counter criticism of the bill.

PEMEX REPORTS ON 1982 SALES OF PETROCHEMICALS

FL272007 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2105 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 25 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- Some 11,358,000 tons of petrochemicals were produced daily during the current year, which represents an increase of 188 percent over the 1976 production, Mexican Petroleum -- Pemex -- announced today. This amount covers approximately 41 products and supplies 90 percent of the national consumption. Likewise, the number of petrochemical plants increased from 59 in 1976 to 89 today. La Cangrejera Petrochemical Complex and an extracting and cracking plant began operating during the year.

SALVADOR'S CHAVEZ MENA RECEIVES DECORATION

PA232030 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 22 Dec 82 pp 1, A16

[Speech by Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena in accepting a Panamanian Government decoration from Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado on 16 December in Panama City]

[Text] Mr Minister, ladies and gentlemen:

At a moment when I am in the midst perhaps of a myriad of difficulties as well as of accomplishments, the illustrious Government of Panama has honored me with the Vasco Nunez de Balboa Order in the degree of Silver Grand Cross. In the very midst, and this is happening at the end of December, of the month of peace, understanding and general joy.

It is perfectly natural then that I, being on top of the social mountain that is rocking us, should imitate the illustrious sailor whom Panama honors by naming its most important decoration after him.

By looking about him, Vasco Nunez de Balboa could see the ocean that he and his fellow pilgrims had sailed in their discovery adventure. They endured angry seas and were surrounded by unknown dangers. They were guided by divine will and impelled by the human will. And there was that day when he, also on top, and also on the belt of America, could recall with horror what had been left behind, the dangers of the sea that had been left behind. And then he was able look ahead and see at the same time, the sea of peace; the Pacific Ocean.

I have said that I am perhaps atop a veritable mountain of difficulties and accomplishments, work and efforts, hope and disappointment, a situation that has characterized our country in the past few years. Behind me, I can see the sacrifices that my people have been forced to endure in trying to attain democracy while, on their way, spilling blood and tears, guided by the divine will and by their own will to have a democratic regime. Ahead of me I also see the sea of peace that is waiting for us and that we will reach if we continue our efforts.

Mr Minister, the illustrious Government of Panama and the Panamanian people have been very understanding of the problems affecting the Central American region. In this regard, Panama has been and still is fully incorporated into Central America since its heart beats along with the hearts of the rest of its Central American sisters.

Of course, no country will accept or give validity to the quantitative opinions that some people present to define the importance of a nation. I admit that my country is small. Its gigantic will to survive is being currently threatened by enormous external forces.

Someone once said that we can have peace only when we can impose it. Imposing peace means attaining it through laws, justice and reason. Personally speaking, I am convinced that we are on the right path because while it is true that we are a small country that has been unable to impose peace, it is also true that our will, that our peaceful disposition, cannot be stopped.

A few days ago a good friend gave me a bible. As a democrat and as a Christian, I have gone through the pages of this sacred book many times and it always moved me, but this time, I was especially moved by a verse in Isahias which says: "In his humiliation, justice was not done unto him; and since his life was removed from earth who will know his generation?"

Let it not be said of my generation that we did not know how to wage war and for this reason we did not know how to build peace. What would be even worse: Let it not be said that we belong to the generation that lost the war and was never able to conquer peace.

Worse yet: Let it not be said that we lost the war and lost the peace. It is for this reason, Mr Minister, that the Salvadorans are tirelessly working for peace in a democratic, pluralist and participative regime with social justice and respect for human rights.

Mr Minister, in thanking you for the high honor you pay me by giving me your most important decoration on this day of loyalty, I want to pay homage to my friend Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera, acknowledging his devotion to the cause of democracy and justice and his tireless struggle for the full exercise of Panamanian sovereignty. I wish you and all Panama happiness.

SPADAFORA RESIGNS PARTY, JOINS ANTI-SANDINISTS

PA231619 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2209 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Panama City, 22 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Hugo Spadafora, former guerrilla and former Panamanian health minister, has resigned from the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) to fight "in the armed struggle" against the Sandinist government. In a letter to PRD President Berta Torrijos de Arosemena, Spadafora said that he does not want to involve the party founded by the late Gen Omar Torrijos in the guerrilla incursion that he is planning on an unspecified date on "Nicaraguan soil."

A PRD spokesman told ACAN-EFE that Spadafora's letter is under study and that a statement on it will be issued in the near future. Spadafora joined the PRD in 1979 and is now a member of its National Directorate.

In 1966 and 1967, Spadafora fought beside Amilcar Cabral for the independence of Guinea-Bissau and in 1978 in Panama he joined a military brigade organized in support of the FSLN, which led the struggle that overthrew Anastasio Somoza's regime.

In his letter Spadafora labeled the present Nicaraguan regime the "neo-Somozist dictatorship of the nine totalitarian commanders."

As commander of the southern front during the struggle against Somoza, Spadafora backed "Commander Cero," Eden Pastora, from the beginning. Pastora said earlier this year that he was going to "remove" the Sandinists from power "with bullets."

PDC COMMUNIQUE CRITICIZES PAREDES 'INTERVENTION'

PA221956 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Dec 82 p 1 A

[By Wilfi Jimenez]

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party, PDC, will withdraw from the Constitution Review Commission if Gen Ruben Dario Paredes again attacks that commission "giving it orders" and imposing the continuity of some institutions that emerged out of the 1972 Constitution as a fait accompli.

This is the obvious message of a strongly worded PDC communique. The communique notes that the PDC, "in line with its policy of publicly denouncing any action or omission that it believes harmful to the sacred interests of the nation, considers it appropriate to comment on a very delicate matter touched on by Gen Ruben Dario Paredes, chief of the country's armed forces, in his latest public intervention."

The PDC communique recalls that as a result of resolution No 148 issued on 19 November, and "after the symbolic authorization of the Assembly of Representatives," a commission of well-known jurists and representatives of opposition political parties was appointed to review the Constitution.

The commission, according to this resolution, should have "exclusive, broad and unlimited... functions for the purpose of studying and reviewing, independently and without pressure of any nature, whatever aspects it deems necessary, for the democratization of the country and to secure an effective government in the future.

The PDC cautions "that while the country had been expecting the National Guard chief's advisers to suggest that he refrain from making his repeated public statements that the National Guard -- and not Ricardo de la Espriella, the president that arose from the process -- holds and exercises the real power in the country (a fact that is contrary to and detracts from the democratization and normalization process in the country), General Paredes is now attacking the Constitutional Review Commission, giving it orders and pointing to the continuity of certain institutions endorsed by the Condition under review as a fait accompli."

As evidence of this, the PDC communique quotes the following statements made by the chief of the armed institution: "The assembly of the 505 representatives came into the world, was born in this country and the representatives system will continue, will continue, and the socializing human laws will continue.."

"We are reforming the Constitution... we the armed forces...."

"Mr President, honorable members of the Constitution Review Commission, the National Guard does not need Article 2."

"Take Article 2...but behave when you return to the presidency."

The PDC communique adds: "Undoubtedly, the above were untolerable and unfortunate statements by the commander of the public force. He discusses a subject that, according to the Constitution itself, does not concern him since his military functions are to defend and safeguard the physical integrity of the country as well as to protect the life, honor and property of its citizens."

The PDC communique councludes by pointing out that it agreed to appointing a party representative to the review commission with the understanding that this commission would always have absolute freedom to act without pressure and without direct or indirect orders, and that "if events like those recounted in this communique are repeated, the PDC will be forced to review its decision to remain on the commission."

Spokesmen for other opposition political parties have told LA PRENSA that representatives of their respective parties are discussing "Paredes' speech" and that they plan to issue a statement on it today.

CONEP PRESIDENT ON REJECTION OF REAGAN PLAN

PA280228 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Text] Dulcidio Gonzalez, chairman of the National Council of Private Enterprise [Conep], made a statement for Televisora Nacional in which he said that the rejection of the Reagan plan is troubling, as this plan represented the integration of the United States with Caribbean countries and the strengthening of the area.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] Well, yes, I would say it's troubling, definitely so. But, why? Why is it troubling? Because I think that the rejection of the Reagan plan is not just one more issue. I think the Reagan plan had a scope, and also a philosophy. I think that President Reagan adopted this philosophy to achieve a true integration of Latin America -- and in this case of Central America or the Caribbean Basin -- with the United States. This is why I say that it is troubling and somewhat disappointing to see that U.S. congressmen and senators do not realize the importance of Reagan's plan.

I don't know if you recall what I was telling you before this interview started, but on 13 May, at El Panama Hotel, I voiced my deep concern over the possibility that this -- exactly what's now taking place -- could happen. As I said, the U.S. President's plan definitely had a philosophy, a way of thinking. True, there is a reality, which is a geopolitical problem of the Central American region. This geopolitical problem -- and I again take advantage of this opportunity -- is that everything rotates around the Panama Canal. So if this is troubling for the region as a whole, it is even more troubling for us, since what the Reagan plan was trying to do was to strengthen the area, strengthen it against leftist Marxist attacks, which are really aimed at getting control over the Panama Canal, in which case we, the Panamanians, should be even more worried about it. [end recording]

COLUMNIST HAILS DEFEAT OF CARIBBEAN BASIN PLAN

PA251721 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 23 Dec 82 p 18

["Vox Populi" column by Luis Restrepo Rosas: "It Is No Surprise"]

[Text] What has happened to the famous "Reagan plan for Central America and the Caribbean area" comes as no surprise. When the plan was first announced with much fanfare, I immediately labeled it a deceit similar to the Alliance for Progress, Operation Friendship and other programs aimed at duping the countries south of the Rio Grande and at making the rich countries richer. We have also previously pointed out in this same column that the United States approves of agrarian reform as long as it does not touch the great landholders and includes only low-yield lands that are hard to reach and far from markets and access roads so necessary to human life. Agrarian reform in Latin America has followed in the footsteps of the no-less-famous plan "discarded by the U.S. Congress. [quotemarks as published]

The truth is that the "Reagan plan" alloted $350 million to the Caribbean and Central American areas because the U.S. economic strategists figured that it was more than enough "to control the natives." These countries were supposed to turn over their natural resources so that U.S. investors would bring in their industries. Those industries would be tax-exempt. They would get anything they asked for. Labor laws would have to be repealed. Social benefits and wages would be held at a minimum so as to compete with U.S. and European products.

Despite efforts by the White House, the program was defeated mostly because of pressure from U.S. workers. According to statistics, there were 11 MILLION UNEMPLOYED WORKERS in November. [words in upper case denote boldface as published] There is strong opposition against imported products. Quite naturally garment and electrical-industry workers were against U.S. markets being saturated with garments "made" in Guatemala, radio and television sets assembled in Panama, "synthetic fruit juices" canned in Jamaica....

The pressure is increasing and there are no signs of it letting up because there are no signs of the U.S. economy's improvement. The government has announced that next year it will revive the program drafted by "the Chicago boys." However, by that time it will be engaged in the reelection campaign and will try to avoid any decision that might cost them the workers' votes.

Few people in the Caribbean or in Central America were willing to mortgage their sovereignty for the crumbs from the tables of the transnational companies that were to invest in those countries. They will continue to dream of the plan, hoping that "it will return" like "the dark swallows" of Becquer's poem.

PAPER PRAISES NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR'S APPROACH

PA231838 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 23 Dec 82 p A-4

[From the "Names and Events" column]

[Text] Everett E. Briggs, the new U.S. ambassador in Panama, has begun his activities by visiting not only the other diplomatic missions, but numerous state agencies, the universities, the newspapers, and the cultural and civic centers as well. He has even held talks with the leaders of the political parties. This is an open, frank and friendly approach, obviously intended to serve and to do things properly.

CULTURE FRONT DENOUNCES RIOS MONTT REGIME

PA260339 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] The Panamanian Culture Workers Front [FTC], which groups prominent intellectuals and artists of that country, has issued a communique denouncing the massacre of Indian peasants in Guatemala by Gen Efrain Rios Montt's regime. The document says that even some U.S. congressmen have expressed alarm following the confirmation of the genocide being carried out by the army and the paramilitary bands that act with impunity in that Central American nation. The Panamanian intellectuals also denounce the support that the U.S. transnationals and the CIA provide to the Rios Montt regime, which allows it to silently perpetrate all types of crimes and atrocities.

COMPTROLLER ISSUES REPORT ON BUDGET DEFICIT

PA250243 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Dec 82 p 10C

[Article by Vladimir Sandoval]

[Text] Comptroller General Francisco Rodriguez has issued a report stating that "as a result of the difference between current income of $466.6 million and current expenses of $536.8 million, the national government's 1982 budget for the first half of the fiscal year ended with a deficit of $70.2 million."

The report adds that this deficit is partially due to the fact that the initial income program resulted in a lower figure than the estimated $31 million and emphasizes that the 1982 program was revised and adjusted with a reduction of $49.7 million in current income and a reduction in expenses, to be implemented during the second semester.

"As a result of the partial refinancing of public debt payments, there should have been an income of $103.3 million during the first semester; however, the actual income was only $51.7 million, because the fund transfer was not undertaken at the proper time," the report states.

The comptroller general added that in terms of budget balancing, there is no record of the $51.6 million in income for the refinancing of public debt payments, which, according to the income program, should have been accounted for by 30 June 1982.

The central government's income and expenditure operation resulted in a cash overdraft of $55.7 million during the period January-June 1982, the comptroller general's report notes. According to the report, the overdraft resulted from the difference between the $688.3 million income and the $744.0 million in expenditures. The largest sums involve current expenses, unbudgeted expenses, expired accounts and private sources.

Reports indicate that during the 6-month period, payments of $18.6 million were made on outstanding accounts, representing an overdraft for that amount. In addition, unbudgeted expenses caused an overdraft of $10.4 million, because in some cases the corresponding income to offset these expenses has not been received. The reports add that there was an overdraft of $21 million in the application of the operating budget, since income was $466.6 million and outlays totalled $487.6 million.

The reports also state that so far payments of $5.7 million from investments made in June have not yet been duly transferred, which explains the appearance of excess payments for that amount.

LA PRENSA ACCUSED OF SWINGING TO LEFT

PA231848 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 22 Dec 82 pp 1, 10

[Text] The swing to the left that the newspaper LA PRENSA has taken in the last few days was confirmed this morning when the author of the column "In a Few Words," the servile T. Solarte, who is spoiling Panama's journalistic environment with his terrible jokes about all the topics and situations that take place among us, charged that the politicians who attended a dinner with the U.S. ambassador "are unworthy."

In truth, Mr Solarte, a repentant commie, merely writes -- and this is something that he himself has admitted -- what the owner of LA PRENSA dictates to him or tells him to write.

Mr Solarte writes: "That was the moment to get up from the table and, without saying goodbye or paying the bill, throw a glass of wine (or better yet, a bowl of hot soup) in his face and leave. This is what any honest politician would have done. However, an honest politician wouldn't have attended that dinner in the first place because an honest politician does not agree to seriously discuss Panama's domestic affairs."

This excerpt of the column that Bobby Eisenmann has always ordered his servile paid employee to draft as the political line of his newspaper, shows how far these columns have gone in their zeal to give orders to the entire country, to apply mortifying epithets to both ministers and leaders, and to distort our country's current political and social situation under the guise of lighthearted humor and analysis.

BRIEFS

NATIONAL DEBT FIGURES -- A report issued by the Panamanian Comptroller general's office states that Panama's National Contractual Debt [Deuda contractual] amounted to 3,607,900,000 balboas at the end of June 1982, which was 8.3 percent or 277.2 million balboas higher than at the end of 1981. The report added that the current debt [deuda corriente] amounted to 67 million balboas at the end of June 1982, for a grand total of 3,674,000,000 [as published] balboas. [Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 24 Dec 82 PA]

NEW PAPAL NUNCIO NAMED -- Msgr Jose Sebastian Laboa is the new apostolic nuncio in the Republic of Panama. Laboa, a Spaniard, holds a doctorate in theology and canon law and has occupied high posts in the Vatican. [Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 21 Dec 82 PA]

BALBOA POLICE CHIEF -- National Guard Captain Teafilo Campodonico has been appointed chief of the Balboa police substation, replacing Major Carlos Arosemena King. [Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 24 Dec 82 pp A-1, A-14 PA]

COSTA RICA

CUBAN POLITICAL PRISONERS AUTHORIZED ENTRANCE

PA221719 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] The Costa Rican State Security Council has authorized the entrance of 26 Cuban political prisoners that have completed their jail sentences on Fidel Castro's Caribbean island.

The decision was made as a result of negotiations that have been in progress at the request of the Committee of Relatives of the 100 [Comite de Familiares de Los 100] and under the leadership of (Jorge Roblejo Lori). (Roblejo Lori) is currently in Havana, making final arrangements for the release of these political prisoners.

Although initial negotiations were for the release of 100 political prisoners, the Costa Rican Government agreed to receive 26 of them, based on an analysis of the list sent by the Cuban Government. Among the list of 26 political prisoners whose entrance the Costa Rican Government has authorized and who will continue their trip to Cuba [as heard] a few weeks later, there are several former Sierra Maestra combatants, including some of the commanders of Fidel Castro's troops.

Here is the list approved by the Costa Rican Government. It includes (Eloy Gutierrez Menoya) former combatant in Fidel Castro's ranks, who rebeled against today's strongman in Cuba. The others are (Jose Antonio Laman de la Torre), (Eugenio Garcia Delgado), (Ricardo Solano Payes de la Paz), (Angel Enrique Valentin Pardo Mazorra), (Antonio Fernandez Bonilla), (Alejandro Miguel Novo Alvarez), (Placido Diez Millo), (Hector Cabrera Torres), (Augusto Duque Pavelo), (Pedro Antonio Gonzalez Rodriguez), (Jose M. del Pino Gonzalez) and (Manuel Hernandez Cruz).

Other political prisoners that have been in Cuban jails for 20 years or more, and will be released using Costa Rica as their departure bridge, are (Angel Pana Serrano), (Ernesto Palomeque Bucias), (Pedro Santana Camejo), (Raul del Valle Villardel), (Jesus Sanchez Arango), (Jose Rafael Martinez Carratala), (Jose Oscar Rodriguez Terrero), (Esteban Acosta Losada), (Ricardo Montero Duque), (Nelson Eduardo Rodriguez Perez), (Sergio Montes de Oca), (Andres Vargas Gomez) and (Jose Enrique Velasquez Gonzalez).

According to report obtained at the presidency, the Cuban Government submitted a list of 40 prisoners, but the Costa Rican Government selected 26. They will not be able to enter Costa Rica until 15 January. From Costa Rica they will go to the United States.

EL SALVADOR

ARENA HEALTH MINISTER REPORTEDLY TO BE REPLACED

PA272251 San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Text] Reliable sources close to President Alvaro Magana report that the 1983 changes in the ministries will not amount to much. The sources say that a small change for 1983 will be made at the Public Health and Social Services Ministry. The post was formerly occupied by a member of the Nationalist Republican Alliance Party, Arena, and will now be occupied by a member of the Democratic Alliance Party, AD. It was reported this Sunday that the new minister of public health and social services for 1983 will be Dr Napoleon Cardenas.

Meanwhile, the National Conciliation Party, PCN, has kept all of its ministries, secretariats, and under secretariats of state, including those held by the following officials: Public Works Minister Arnulfo Ayala; Justice Minister Arturo Mendez Azahar; Minister of the Presidency Francisco Jose Guerrero; Under Secretary of Labor (Cesar Urbina); and Luis Lagos, secretary of information of the presidency.

According to the unofficial information, possible changes at the Foreign Trade Ministry are still being studied. The ministry has been controlled by Arena, with Benedicto Morataya as minister. So far, it still has not been confirmed whether Morataya will continue in this post or if Arena will appoint another of its members in his place.

PAPER DEPLORES TREND AGAINST REAGAN'S OPINION

PA231808 San Salvador EL SALVADOR NEWS-GAZETTE in English 13-19 Dec p 4

[Editorial: Central America's Loss]

[Text] It is too bad for Central America, and particularly for El Salvador and Guatemala, that President Reagan is not allowed his own mind where they are concerned.

There is no other explanation for the too amazing reversal by a "senior administration official" of President Reagan's two very revealing comments on El Salvador and Guatemala, after his meetings with President Alvaro Magana and Efrain Rios Montt.

After he met with President Magana, it was reported that President Reagan had said that he was ready to certify to Congress that El Salvador had met the conditions for certification.

After meeting with President Rios, it was reported that President Reagan had said that "Guatemala had a bum rap on human rights," and that he was ready to renew military assistance to Guatemala.

A number of spokesmen, merely identified as "senior administration officials" who asked that their identities be concealed, told reporters that the President had been mistaken on all counts, and that the certification of El Salvador, the human rights situation in Guatemala, and the sale of arms to Guatemala were still "subject to study."

Factually, the "senior administration officials" were absolutely correct. The questions are still subject to study. But in destroying confidence, good will and understanding achieved through the personal meetings with President Magana and Rios Montt, the "senior administration officials" made a colossal blunder.

What is obvious to all the world is that President Reagan was impressed with the sincerity, honesty and patriotism of Presidents Magana and Rios Montt. He saw that they they were not what the media, nor even the confidential reports he received from different agencies and the private think tanks and study centers that counsel him on Central America made them out to be. In other words, both President Magana and President Rios Montt convinced President Reagan of their cases.

They both convinced President Reagan that they were not bloodthirsty assassins, seeking to perpetuate by force of arms a rule of oppression for the benefit of the oligarchy in their respective nations.

But the "senior administration officials" and other powerful experts would not allow President Reagan his own mind.

"You cannot say that about regimes that have such a bad record," they must have told him. "What do you think this would do to the voters in the Middle West? Haven't you lost enough seats in Congress?"

So, it is too bad for Central America, and particularly for El Salvador and Guatemala that President Reagan is not allowed his own mind where Central America, El Salvador, and Guatemala are concerned. The truly liberal residue from the Carter human rights administration, the overwhelming anti-El Salvador and [anti] Guatemala internationally supported propaganda campaigns and the pragmatic realities of United States politics will judge that in the long run, it has been Central America's loss.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT EXTENDS STATE OF SIEGE FOR 30 DAYS

PA280415 Paris AFP in Spanish 2236 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Dec (AFP) -- It was officially announced here that the Guatemalan Government today decided to extend for 30 days -- effective tomorrow -- the state of siege throughout the country, "since the conditions" that made it necessary for the government to implement it on 1 July "still persist." President Efrain Rios Montt signed the decree extending the state of siege -- the seventh extension since he assumed power on 23 March -- in a cabinet meeting.

The state of siege, as well as the statement that "the conditions persist" are contrary to repeated statements that President Rios Montt himself has made, that the war against subversion in the country "has ended." The state of siege in Guatemala deprives Guatemalan citizens of the majority of their individual rights and, according to observers, it has not helped in improving Guatemala's image abroad.

RIOS MONTT ACCEPTS BANK PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION

PA251809 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Gonzalo Asturias Montenegro, secretary of public relations of the presidency, has announced that President Rios Montt has accepted the recent resignation of Jorge Gonzalez del Valle as president of the Bank of Guatemala. The official spokesman added that the bank's vice president, Armando Gonzalez Campo, has replaced Gonzalez del Valle.

PAPER PRINTS MANIFESTO OF SUAZO KIDNAPPERS

PA241200 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 22 Dec 82 pp B-8, B-9

[Paid advertisement placed by the relatives of kidnap victim Dr Xiomara Suazo Estrada, daughter of Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova, in compliance with the kidnappers' demands; capitals denote boldface as published in original]

[Text] MANIFESTO OF THE PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT, MRP, "IXIM," [not further identified]

TO: ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD
TO: THE GUATEMALAN PEOPLE

Guatemala, December 1982

On 14 December, the "C. Pedro Diaz" operation was carried out by MRP "IXIM" guerrilla commandos, who easily overpowered the Honduran president's daughter and evaded the traditional, useless and bothersome police and army controls that keep the capital under military control.

The goal of this guerrilla action was the publication of our organization's second political manifesto. The first manifesto was issued during the clandestine phase of our development, at the time of the kidnapping of the corrupt public health minister of the criminal and genocidal government of General Lucas Garcia, a brother in class, caste and feelings of General Efrain Rios Montt and his kind.

HONDURAS, IMPERIALIST HEADQUARTERS FOR THE INVASION OF NICARAGUA

In order to carry out their sinister plans, the Yankee imperialists have revamped their counterinsurgency plans in the Central American region and are using the Republic of Honduras as a MILITARY HEADQUARTERS in a desperate attempt to contain the revolution in Central America and the Caribbean.

The Honduran oligarchy and military dictatorship, which are completely committed to the gringo imperialist interests, have been assigned this sad role of lackey since 1954, when they lent their territory for the CIA, mercenaries and the Guatemalan Army to oust Jacobo Arbenz' progressive government.

Now the Honduran military and oligarchy are participating in U.S. warmongering plans. While receiving $500 million in "aid," and without the slightest respect for the Honduran people, they are converting their territory into a headquarters for acts of intervention, aggression and invasion against the people of Nicaragua and El Salvador, while building a rearguard to contain the revolution in Guatemala and other Caribbean nations.

This inept Honduran Army has shamelessly participated with U.S. Marines who are specialists in invasions in an attempt to build up its minimal, nonexistent combat capacity.

But the Honduran Army was not satisfied with just the Yankees' leadership and advice; it turned to the criminal state of Israel to obtain more weapons and training to enable it to carry out U.S. imperialist crimes.

SUAZO CORDOVA, THE BUFFOON IN IMPERIALISM'S PLANS

Imperialism needed to establish a civilian facade, so Roberto Suazo Cordova, a "civilian," was chosen to fool the Honduran people and the international public. He was assigned the role of buffoon in the plans for intervention, invasion and aggression against the people of Nicaragua and El Salvador, and even the Honduran people themselves. In both Honduras and Guatemala, oligarchic military dictatorships have been set up, and the only difference between the pharisees Roberto Suazo Cordova and General Efrain Rios Montt is in the degree of physical ugliness.

IMPERIALISM DID NOT LEARN ITS LESSON AT PLAYA GIRON

In 1962 the criminal aggression of the imperialist mercenary gangs and counterrevolutionary worms, financed and armed by the CIA, were crushed by the Cuban people at the Bay of Pigs, turning Playa Giron into the invaders' grave.

Once more Yankee imperialism, in its desperate attempt to maintain its domains, uses Honduran and Costa Rican territory without the people's knowledge to invade free Nicaragua with mercenary troops, backed by the Honduran Army and the insignificant Costa Rican National Guard.

However, the people of Sandino and their vanguard, the FSLN, are prepared to defend the revolution in its consolidation process by confronting the bumbling stubbornness of gringo imperialism and its lackeys, who will suffer another resounding defeat at the hands of the Nicaraguan people, a defeat that will represent a Central American Giron.

THE SALVADORAN PEOPLE WILL WIN

The Salvadoran people, led by the glorious FMLN, have continued their victorious advance against the genocidal criminals of the Salvadoran Army, who, supported directly by the Honduran Army, have established a military fence to facilitate the massacre of the Salvadoran people. Thousands of refugees in the border areas have been condemned to suffer hunger, disease and death.

Only Yankee imperialist brutality, headed by the warmongering Reagan administration, has been able to prolong the agony of the oligarchy and murderous army.

The FMLN is preparing for the final and decisive fight to achieve the final victory.

COSTA RICA, THE PAWNED DEMOCRACY

Costa Rica has become part of the Yankee imperialists' plans and has allowed the use of its territory for the mercenary gangs of former Somozists to harass and attack the Nicaraguan revolution. Imperialist domination of the Costa Rican economy and government has led to this unacceptable situation for the Costa Rican people, who were an important factor in the Sandinist victory. We are completely sure that this situation will not prevail much longer, and the Costa Rican people will not allow the consummation of the gringos' criminal invasion.

PANAMA BECOMES SILENT WITHOUT TORRIJOS

Since the murder of progressive General Omar Torrijos and the subsequent removal of Aristides Royo, Panama has been experiencing imperialist domination with renewed force. It continues to be an important part of the counterinsurgency plans, as a base and as a school to train and prepare for the genocide of our America. Panama has indefintely lent the canal zone territory for the use of Yankee imperialism.

However, the Panamanian people are not deceived by these maneuvers, and they know who Torrijos' murderers are.

WE SEND OUR COMBATIVE SOLIDARITY AND THE ASSURANCE OF THE VICTORY OF OUR POPULAR REVOLUTIONS TO THE PEOPLES OF LATIN AMERICA AND ESPECIALLY CENTRAL AMERICA!

THE OLIGARCHIC MILITARY DICTATORSHIP HAS MILITARIZED THE GOVERNMENT, IMPOSED A WAR ECONOMY AND BANKRUPTED THE COUNTRY. [country not specified]

THE FINAL CRISIS OF OUR HOMELAND

The structural crisis has its roots in the Spanish conquest and colonization process, when the economy was developed to suit the interests of the Spanish crown and of the newborn oligarchy that expropriated and subjected our people to the cruelest exploitation, oppression and discrimination, a situation that is now 450 years old.

This crisis has always existed for our peasants, workers and other popular sectors because we have always been in a condition of extreme poverty and exploitation, a condition that has reached levels never before seen in our history.

Now the rich that compose the oligarchy, the military and the dictatorship are shouting about the economic crisis, knowing that it is they who have led the country to economic collapse without the possibility of solutions, a situation that is worsened by the inability and corruption of the dictatorship and its servile administrators.

The truth is that these enemies speak of an economic crisis because since 1978 their earnings have been reduced to the point where currently some of them are producing at a loss and are trying to reactivate the economy using mistaken policies and ignoring the misery and hunger that they impose on the people.

SOME INDICATORS OF BANKRUPTCY

Concerning the indicators of the crisis over the last 4 years, we can affirm unequivocally that agricultural production for export has decreased 40 percent and agricultural production for subsistance [has decreased] up to 95 percent in areas where the military and oligarchic dictatorship are waging the genocidal war.

Small industry has decreased by 30 percent and is getting worse due to the decreasing demand, principally by the middle class, who are becoming poor at an accelerated rate.

Industrial production, of which 70 percent is financed by foreign (gringo) capital in the framework of an underdeveloped and dependent exclusively light industry, has decreased by 30 percent, and its installed capacity has been decreased by 70 percent.

Commerce has gradually been restricted to staple items as a result of the constant increase in prices, which have increased 350 percent in the last 4 years, pushing commerce at the international level into a state of a barter economy and black market.

Finances are in a similar situation. The banking systems has 1 billion quetzals in accumulated capital and nowhere to invest, what with high interest rates and no international backing. In the face of this, the financial oligarchy refuses to devalue the quetzal; they are caught in a one-way street, terrified and subjected to the incompetence of the corrupt officials of the military dictatorship.

The Quetzal, the national currency, has actually lost 60 percent of its value in the last 8 years and has lot its parity with the currencies of other countries, restricting trade and transactions to that with the U.S. imperialism, as long as imperialism can take its profit.

All this has caused more exploitation and misery among our people, aggravating unemployment, which now amounts to 65 percent of the work force. This has inevitably increased all the social problems that always exist in the lives of the poor, such as illiteracy, disease, lack of housing, lack of arable land, crime, prostitution and others.

In summary, we are submerged in the final crisis caused by the exploitation of the imperialists -- especially and principally from the United States -- who have plundered the wealth of our homeland since 1900 and enriched themselves with the sweat and blood of our people.

In addition, we also endure the oligarchy of the wealthy and the military, which have increased their capital through overexploitation and corruption in the great farms and haciendas, in the factories and the large companies, in the banks and large businesses, by making the brother peasants, laborers and workers of our people bear the burden of the economic crisis and by using political power to repress every expression of protest with murder, kidnapping and massacres.

THE MILITARIZATION OF THE ECONOMY: A COUNTERINSURGENCY NECESSITY

The deep crisis that affects the country's economy in every sector has obliged the armed forces to take over the leadership and control of the economy, a process initiated in 1963 as a measure to safeguard their own interests as member of the wealthy oligarchy, along with imperialist interests, in the framework of the definite introduction of a counterinsurgency war.

Production, exports, imports, trade, transportation, communication media and all utilities have been placed under military control to establish the bases for the application of counterinsurgency tactics, characterized essentially by the selective repression in the cities and urban areas of the country, as well as the genocidal massacre of the peasants population, principally the Indians.

Eighty-four percent of the national budget is appropriated for the Defense and Interior Ministries and others that directly support the dictatorship's counterinsurgency plans.

The state of affairs caused by this promotes domestic and foreign indebtedness to pay for the salaries and wages of the government workers, as well as causing delayed payments, deductions and massive dismissals, without the least concern for personal and family needs.

In public administration, the army officers corps controls the strategic functions in the principal cabinet ministries, departments and decentralized and presumably autonomous institutions.

Mediocre technocrats, who participate with the military in the administration to implement the counterinsurgency strategy, have been placed at the service of this murderous officer corps by the institutions of the wealthy oligarchy.

One such example is the capital's municipality, which is subjected and controlled by the army. With a facade of a civilian administration, it carries out the government's plan by increasing bus fares, taxes and municipal fees, cheating the people with increases for fictitious expenses to maintain the bureaucaracy and the corruption of the high-ranking officials and at the same time to finance the purchase of arms and military supplies at our expense.

This is how in a completely militarized economy, every aid program and project, as well as the work of the government employees, directly or indirectly serves to maintain the criminal repression of the workers.

It is no longer possible to alleviate this crisis. It is as deep as the 4 centuries of exploitation, oppression and discrimination of our brothers.

The only way to overcome this irreversible situation [as published] to which our country has been subjected by the greed and incompetence of our enemies is by rooting out the evil through the organization of, education in an promotion of the popular war, which is just and necessary in Guatemala.

THE ARMY AND ITS DESPERATE MANEUVERS

Since the reinitiation of the popular war in 1975, the army has sustained great losses due to the constant harassment and blows from the revolutionary forces. This wearing down of the enemy forced it to break its own legal election framework, entering a new phase of counterinsurgency to try to contain the advance of the process of prolonged war.

Starting in March with the coup d'etat, the army under the leadership of the U.S. imperialists and the wealthy was obliged to change the rulers who were known for their madness, cruelty and corruption against the people. The replacement of some military murderers with similar individuals was done to try to confuse our people and break our international isolation. This was done under the guise of making formal changes, when in fact the only real adjustments were made to the counterinsurgency strategy, which had been seriously weakened by the popular war, the economic and political crisis and the corruption and incompetence of the military and oligarchic dictatorship.

The army has used maneuvers such as the removal of military coupists, special laws, public and secret executions, the Council of State, amnesty, the state of siege, civil defense and electoral illusions for the political parties, which have always been instruments of the dictatorship, to legalize and institutionalize corruption and crime.

These enemies have invented the attempted coups d'etat to try to convey the impression of contradiction in the power bloc and to confuse the people and make them believe that they are different from the previous enemies, when it fact they are still "cayotes from the same hill."

Corruption has continued, and the commandments imposed on the government officials "not to steal, not to lie and not to abuse," are humorously and cynically accepted by the officials. However, our people have long known who these thieves, liars and abusers are.

According to them, the only effective tactic for fighting the revolutionary forces is the massacres, which have continued with greater intensity. The death toll since 1954 has been 120,000, 12,000 of whom were vilely murdered or massacred by the government of "messianic" and "satanic" Gen Efrain Rios Montt, the killer of Sansirisay.

But the revolutionary structures are intact and ready to start the decisive and definite phase of our revolutionary struggle.

THE CIVIL PATROLS SHOW THE ARMY'S WEAKNESS

The direct recruiting of soldiers has decreased greatly and the enemy cannot replace the casualties caused by the revolutionary forces and has had to resort to military commissions, the reserves and forcible recruitment to subject the people. The enemy does this by organizing civil patrols, by trying to control the entire population. The enemy's objective is to be able to massacre, in villages and towns, men who have demonstrated their rejection of the repressive corps. The patrols are used as a shield in the alleged clashes against our units because of the army's inability to fight.

These patrols are paramilitary units that are used to continue making people disappear, to continue kidnapping and massacring those who show that they disagree with the government and its repressive forces.

WHAT WE SHOULD DO TO FACE UP TO OUR ENEMIES

Our people must understand that the poor people's war is difficult and full of sacrifices and that the enemy is using all sort of weapons, including rifles, incendiary and bacteriological bombs, mass kidnappings, forced labor, torture, lies and the manipulation of our religious beliefs.

The enemy reports that we are finished, destroyed, when we are actually strong and ready to continue fighting to the end.

We must not permit the enemy that controls and is part of the communication media -- radio, newspapers and television -- and therefore all the news reported to the people, to intimidate or to scare us when it tries to distract and to confuse us with lies and false reports that hide the truth about our struggle and the primitive situation we are enduring in Guatemala.

We must not let the enemy, in its desperation, turn some people into traitors or stool pidgeons who would inform on our forces and on the rest of the people because we will apply revolutionary justice to those who help repressive corps.

With pictures of funny guerrillas and lies, they are only strengthening our struggle and are showing our people clear and fighting examples of their best children; internationalists, religious people, students, professionals, peasants and workers who point up the difference between us and the enemy.

The enemy is also trying to manipulate its vulgar folkloric nationalism by playing up customs, traditions and other cultural factors, as well as the people's capacity for work and organization, while at the same time destroying and murdering the creators of this culture.

They have been very interested in promoting cultural events involving singers, artists and other workers in the areas of culture and sports to give an appearance of calm and to distract the attention of some popular sectors, hiding the truth and imposing a state of siege and curfew on our happiness and our other sources of entertainment.

The enemy has also used religion to deceive believers and religious people and to hide the truth from them. The enemy has mixed religion with the perversion of the dirty politics of those responsible for the deaths and persecution of true Christian and religious people.

We must realize that the material and spiritual misery that our enemies have imposed on us and that becomes a heavier burden every day, no longer has any other solution than the revolutionary struggle and soon we will put an end to the cause of our homeland's disgrace and to the people who are responsible for that disgrace.

The victory of the revolution is near; justice, peace and brotherhood are in sight to be forever present in all the Guatemalan homes.

To achieve this, it is necessary to cover the final part of the road, and it will be as difficult to go this final distance as it has been to get to this point, but having now more knowhow, experience and organization, we will accomplish the objective of our struggle.

The revolution continues advancing in other sister nations and the solidarity of people and governments increases every day. Our organization also continues growing and developing to win revolutionary victory.

All our people must be alert and avoid the provocations by the enemy, as well as desperation and unwarranted feelings of victory; nevertheless, they must always follow the revolutionary vanguard's correct and sure orientation for participation in the struggle.

THE MASSACRES, KIDNAPPINGS AND TORTURES WILL NOT STOP US. THE FIGHTING PEOPLE WILL WIN

OUR FORCES ON WAR FOOTING

The revolutionary forces in Guatemala have continued their unstoppable development, and the tactical maneuvers of the enemy have been unable to prevent this strengthening.

The people's revolutionary war has been developed as a correct strategy for our people's victory and it has forced the army, the oligarchy and imperialism itself to use every possible political and military tactic, all of which have had no positive results. Nevertheless, the defenseless people who have sought refuge in the countryside and in the cities have been besieged, kidnapped and massacred; they have been portrayed as guerrillas, collaborators and even commanders.

We have emerged as a rvolutionary organization because the historic and political conditions have so determined, but we emerge as a unity movement and in the context of the people's revolutionary war.

In this context, the MRP IXIM is basing its military and political tactics on the assumption that the war will be prolonged, united and progressive. We do so in order to make an effective constribution with our force; we have no desire or pretense to become famous except as a fighting force that is convinced and sure about the path of our revolution.

Our war must be viewed seriously and with responsibility. We cannot allow tiny incapable groups to play at war, thus propitiating victories of the "security" forces and sacrificing humble people.

In an effort to think like men of action and to behave like thinking people, we have publicly broken into the political picture of the Guatemalan revolution with a slogan that summarizes our firm and immovable position: LIBERTY OR DEATH.

"THOSE WHO HAVE CAUSED THE DEATH OF THOUSANDS OF MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF OUR COUNTRY WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO SPEAK OF RESPECT FOR LIFE AND HUMANKIND."

THOSE WHO INVOKE GOD, FAMILY, HOMELAND AND DEMOCRACY TO REQUEST AND BUY ARMS TO MAINTAIN INJUSTICE, HAVE NO RIGHT TO SERVE AS JUDGES." [quotation marks as published]

"ORGANIZE AND PREPARE FOR THE FINAL BATTLES TO END OVER 4 AND 1/2 CENTURIES OF DEPRIVATION, OPPRESSION AND DISCRIMINATION."

EVERYONE TO HIS COMBAT POSITION. THE TRIUMPH OF THE REVOLUTION IS AT HAND AND WE CANNOT REMAIN WITH OUR ARMS FOLDED.

ONLY THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY UNITY CAN PROMPTLY ELIMINATE THE ENEMIES OF PEACE, JUSTICE AND FRATERNITY.

PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT
MRP IXIM
FREEDOM OR DEATH

THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS, IN BLOODY UNITY WITH THE VERY RICH AND THEIR GENOCIDAL ARMIES, CAUSED THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CRISIS THAT OUR PEOPLES ARE EXPERIENCING.

The Yankee imperialists, the oligarchies of the very rich and their respective military dictatorships caused the general crisis that is being experienced by our countries in Latin America, particularly in Central America, by keeping our peoples subject to the most ferocious and bloody economic, political and military exploitation and domination.

No people in Latin America have escaped personal experiences with the effects of U.S. domination, which results in the development of misery, unemployment, disease and ignorance, in combination with military intervention, intended to intimidate the peoples and safeguard U.S. properties and other interests.

These gringo enemies have promoted wars, for the purpose of alleviating their profound internal crisis, by arming and training puppet armies to massacre the peoples who are struggling for their national and social liberation.

However, the hour of the revolution has come and our peoples are carrying out the people's revolutionary war. They are defeating these enemies in all areas, in line with the examples of the peoples of Cuba, Grenada and Nicaragua and the Salvadoran, Peruvian, Colombian and other peoples who are advancing inexorably toward the triumph of their revolutions.

The Cuban revolution marked the beginning of revolutionary processes in Latin America, showing the true and definitive path by which to expel the gringo imperialists and to destroy the very rich and their genocidal armies.

U.S. COUNTERINSURGENCY STRATEGY

The United Stated implemented its counterinsurgency plan throughout Latin America by increasing its economic infiltration and domination and established its political domination by directing, training and armed the oligarchies' puppet armies, in order to keep our peoples subject to exploitation and oppression.

Revolutionary Nicaragua is now the target of the intervention, aggression and invasion of U.S. imperialism, which is implementing its plan in a desperate attempt to interrupt the Sandinist revolution's development.

HONDURAS

MILITARY COMMANDERS MEET WITH SANDINIST OFFICERS

PA231713 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] High-ranking Honduran and Nicaraguan Army officers have held a working meeting to reconcile mutual strategic interests in order to alleviate the social political tension between the two nations and to promote, therefore, a climate of detente in the relations among the Central American states.

The meeting lasted 60 minutes. It began at 1100 at the Las Manos customs post, El Paraiso Department.

Honduras was represented by Col Victorio Sanchez Cruz, commander of the 6th Infantry Battalion with headquarters in Ojo de Agua, and by Col Danilo Ferrara Suazo, commander of the 11th Battalion with headquarters in Choluteca, in southern Honduras.

The Sandinist army was represented by Commander (Benito Salvatierra Rivera), chief of the northern region; Capt (Armando Martinez Romero), and Capt (Jaime Humberto Aburcia), who is in charge of the Nicaraguan border guards.

(Efrain Vallejo Cerna) has reported: This correspondent has been unable to find out what agreement was reached by the above-mentioned officers, but I have been told that the purpose of the meeting was to find practical solutions to the problems that have emerged in the border region. This is the third such meeting to occur in recent times.

The problems discussed were not mentioned specifically, but it is believed that the discussions centered around the tension in this region and around relations among the countries on the Central American isthmus.

The Hondurans accepted an invitation to go to the Nicaraguan side of the customs post. This was done with pleasure by the Honduran delegation. The transit of civilians was halted while the meeting between the military men from both countries took place.

The Honduran employees at the customs post left the area as part of the security measures.

Our correspondent interviewed Colonel Sanchez Cruz who said that Honduras supports peace and that we are prepared to avoid a war. Later he went to his vehicle, which took him to his military headquarters where a promotion later took place. Second Lieutenant (Evaristo Reyes Punes) of communications and Maj (Luis Alonso Valderramos) were promoted.

In conclusion, at the border meeting yesterday, Honduran and Nicaraguan Army officers sought a climate of detente. The meeting took place in the Las Manos border region, on Honduran territory.

LA PRENSA SPECULATES ON CABINET CHANGES

PA280217 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Dec 82 p 4

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- President Roberto Suazo Cordova will announce the reorganization of his cabinet during his New Year message to the nation over a radio and television network on 1 January 1983. This was learned from officials close to the Government House who have dealt with the political, statistical, economic and social matters of the president's message.

The same sources said that many of the present cabinet officials and presidents and managers of autonomous institutions will remain in their posts, that is, they will be reaffirmed in office on the basis of their performance and the confidence they have earned from the president.

Only three or four changes are being mentioned in the cabinet, of which two would only be transfers.

There is insistent talk that Finance and Public Credit Minister Arturo Corleto will be appointed economy and commerce minister, and that the present economy and commerce minister, Gustavo Alfaro, will become another presidential economic adviser.

Arecio Ochoa will reportedly be appointed finance and public credit minister.

There is speculation that Public Health and Social Welfare Minister Gonzalo Rodriguez Soto will become director of the Honduran Social Security Institute, and that its present chief, Anibal Villatoro, will be appointed ambassador to Venezuela. Nevertheless, all these changes and transfers, which are not many, will be announced during the president's New Year message to the Honduran people on 1 January 1983.

NICARAGUA

SECURITY FORCES KILL 5 COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES

PA252357 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2226 GMT 25 Dec 82

[Communique issued by the Public Relations Department of the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry in Managua on 25 December -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Interior Ministry of the Republic of Nicaragua wishes to inform the Nicaraguan people that at 2300 on 24 December our state security forces killed five counterrevolutionaries at El Loregano hill, near Jicaral, jurisdiction of the Leon Department, as they prepared to carry out an attack.

The dead counterrevolutionaries are Eddy Antonio Cucalon Gaitan, Alejandro La arte Martinez, Carlos Rivas Manzanares and two others not yet identified. The action took place when Interior Ministry forces clashed with a counterrevolutionary band led by Eddy Antonio Cucalon Gaitan, alias Catalino, a member of the counterrevolutionary organization known as the Nicaraguan Democratic Front, FDN. After coming from Honduran territory, this band carried out a number of attacks against the towns of La Paz Centro and Malpaisillo and distributed leaflets and other propaganda of that organization of former Somozist guardsmen.

The authorities found on them explosives bearing a picture of Mickey Mouse, recently introduced from Honduras to carry out the "bitter Christmas" plot denounced on 23 December by Commander Tomas Borge. They were also carrying four of the five (DZ) rifles stolen during a recent attack on a state production center at La Paz Centro.

HAVANA CITES COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY PLOT, CLASH

PA261805 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] The Nicaraguan Interior Ministry has issued a communique in Managua reporting that five counterrevolutionaries died in a clash with revolutionary forces on El Oregano hill in Leon Department. The communique notes that the counterrevolutionaries had plans to sabotage Nicaraguan public places. The sabotage was to be implemented by placing C-4, a powerful explosive manufactured only in the United States, in various places. All of the counterrevolutionary casualties were members of the so-called Nicaraguan Democratic Front.

SANDINISTS DEFEAT 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY PLANS'

PA261802 Paris AFP in Spanish 1521 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Ocotal, 26 Dec -- Capt Jaime Agurcia, chief of the Ocotal detachment of the Sandinist Peoples Army [EPS], has announced that the Sandinist troops "have broken up the counterrevolutionaries' plans" for this time of the year. Captain Agurcia said that the Sandinist forces did this by controlling access roads and by keeping the opposition groups that operate in this Honduran border region under control.

The militaryman said that on Friday a large number of counterrevolutionaries entered Nicaraguan territory from Honduras through the border town of Santa Maria, 230 km north of Managua, "with the intention of converging in one area, after which they planned to stage large-scale operations."

However, Captain Agurcia added, "the antigovernment groups inside Nicaraguan territory have had nothing to eat or drink for the last 5 days and are being successfully controlled by the Sandinist army."

Agurcia also said that on 24 December, shortly before midnight, there was a firefight in El Espino, on the Honduran border some 240 km from Managua, adding that the Sandinist army suffered no casualties. He explained that a militiaman accidentally fired two shots and that Honduran troops, thinking that they were under attack, entered Nicaragua territory via the customs road and a firefight ensued. It lasted for some 20 minutes, after which calm returned to El Espino. AFP has been able to verify this.

Atop a hill, Honduran troops with AK rifles on their shoulders watched all of the Nicaraguans' movements while others talked with newsmen.

Captain Agurcia emphasized: "We are defending our territory; we are not planning to attack another people, because we don't want a war with anyone."

Agurcia noted that he is worried about the Honduran Armed Forces' concern about an eventual Nicaraguan invasion of their country, which, he said, "will never happen."

TWO COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES' LEADERS KILLED

PA270440 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] The Nicaraguan Armed Forces fought two clashes with counterrevolutionary bands in Nueva Segovia Department, killing two Somozist military leaders who had recently arrived from the United States. According to Sandinist military sources, one of the counterrevolutionaries, Santiago Lagos Rodriguez, was the founder of the basic infantry training school that trained Somoza's elite troops. He led a group that operated near the Honduran border.

The sources added that Lagos received training in special activities near Miami. Likewise, the other Somozist leader, Ceslo Maradiaga Barahona, was trained in a course for special troops. The course was given by Argentine and U.S. advisers at a school located in a Honduran Department near the Nicaraguan border. When Lagos and Maradiaga were killed they were wearing Honduran Army uniforms.

TIRADO LOPEZ PRAISES USSR ON 60TH ANNIVERSARY

PA232215 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Speech by Commander of the Revolution Victor Tirado Lopez, member of the FSLN National Directorate, at the event to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the USSR, held at the Ruben Dario Theater in Managua on 22 December -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Companeros and brothers of the FSLN National Directorate, companeros of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, companero ambassador of the USSR, companeros of the patriotic front of the revolution and the Nicaraguan Labor Coordination Organization, companeros of the Conipaz [Nicaraguan Peace Committee] board of directors, companeros of the General Secretariat of Anasnap [not further identified], companeros and special guests:

When the Great October Socialist Revolution succeeded on 7 November 1917, Lenin, a genius, immediately promulgated a decree on peace and war. Four years later, the new Soviet power proclaimed the declaration of the rights of the Russian peoples as well as the equality and sovereignty of all nations and their right to self-determination. The eternal dream of all men to be equal regardless of race, nationality or religion was becoming a reality for the first time in human history.

This was one of man's ancient aspirations, and it was becoming a reality. This was the most cherished desire of the Russian working class, and it is the best achievement of the international revolutionary movement.

The Soviet experience is a lesson to the Central American peoples. It shows that unity is a clear and powerful factor in solving common problems that seem to be hard to face and solve. The formation of the USSR reminds us of the old desire for Central American unity and the old dream of Sandino, Morazan and other forefathers. The idea of uniting even before merging in a single group undoubtedly responds to a deep popular aspiration.

Taking advantage of this heartfelt desire, the governments of the area, including imperialism, talk about Central American unity, and they created the so-called Democratic Community and the triangle of the North with the intention of isolating and destroying the Sandinist revolution. This unity under U.S. hegemony was created around dictatorships and armies that are enemies of their own peoples. This represents a policy that is completely discredited. It has served and is still serving to divide our countries, to worsen conflicts and to pit us against each other; and it has resulted in a regional crisis. However, let our Latin America learn a lesson from the Malvinas conflict. Latin America must assume an anti-imperialist and anti-Yankee position like the Soviet people did and like Sandino did in the 1930's. [applause]

Therefore, the U.S. imperialists have no right to speak on behalf of Latin America, because we've only received evil, destruction, invasions and oppression from them. We, the Sandinist people's revolution, disavow the Reagan administration if it ever speaks on behalf of this revolution. If other countries want it to speak on their behalf, that's their problem. We only demand that we be left alone. We only demand that they do not interfere here, and that they allow us to solve our own problems.

In view of the present situation and the way in which the processes are evolving in the isthmus, we don't see that Central America will achieve unity soon. One of the symptoms of the crisis is the division of Central America due to the meddling of the U.S. Government and the resistance of local oligarchies. It is a fact that we are divided. Many neighboring governments are very displeased with the existence of the Sandinist revolution. It is also a fact that we don't like them, but we have not planned to overthrow them, while they are bent on doing that to us. [applause]

We have not included the struggle to overthrow this or that government in any of our plans. We are not meddling nor do we want to meddle in anybody's domestic affairs. We have too many problems inside Nicaragua for the revolution to try and solve somebody else's problems.

We reiterate what we have repeated over and over: We need to respect one another in Central America, and we must try to solve conflicts through negotiation at conference tables, not through bullets. We must learn to coexist regardless of [words indistinct] or the type of government in power.

Central American unity means unity in adversity at this time. It means that we must learn to live together despite differences, even if they are of substance. Otherwise, we will live under the perpetual possibility of a regional war.

We are far from feeling a desire or the temptation to export the revolution. We want to influence with examples. We want to show the advantages of the revolution. We want to prove that we can eliminate misery, backwardness, inequality and the negative inheritance we received from the past.

We are not interested in showing a military superiority because we are determined to show supremacy in peaceful work. Despite what reactionary and pro-imperialist propaganda has to say, we are not in favor of becoming a regional military power. As Sandino said, we are not military. If we act as such, and if we are now at the battlefield, it is because a silent war and a war of attrition have been imposed on us.

The northern border is practically a theater of war, but it isn't our fault. The aggression has begun, and we have been fighting it every day. Approximately 2,000 counterrevolutionaries and former Somozist guardsmen are operating on the northern border. They are supported by part of the Honduran Army. One thousand of these men tried to seize Jalapa a few days ago. They were repelled by the heroic and unselfish combatants of our armed forces, who performed just as they did during the insurrection; They shall not pass! [applause]

Glory to the companeros of our armed forces who have fallen. For more than 2 years we have been resisting attacks and aggressions from the north. We have endured them with maturity, serenity and generosity. However, many companeros are wondering what will happen, how long we are going to go on like this. Hasn't the time come to chase the counterrevolutionary bands all the way to their sanctuary, even at the risk of a war? We would be making a very serious mistake if we ran that risk. This is what the enemy wants; for us to get desperate and fall for the provocations. It is true that we are getting tired, but it is just as true that they are also getting tired. They are running the risk of becoming frustrated, fleeing in disorder and being liquidated. We can count on a revolutionary victory.

The great crisis of the capitalist system in 1917 was solved through the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution; and, until now, every subsequent crisis of the capitalist system has been solved through revolution.

We are not responsible for the crisis existing in the capitalist world. But we are responsible for overcoming this crisis through the development and the victory of the revolutions of our countries. We are responsible for that. [applause] We are responsible for leading our revolution.

However, everything seems to indicate that this will be a long war, and we must be prepared in every sense to face this situation.

It is very difficult to stop the incursions in the north. We are going to suffer them for a long time. What we can avoid, and we've been able to achieve this on several occasions, is the carrying out of a large invasion. We recently charged in Washington that the U.S. Government had planned a large-scale invasion against Nicaragua. Our accusation was fully confirmed by the U.S. media and by several foreign governments. A wave of protests and a vigorous rejection at the regional and international level followed the accusation.

The U.S. Government found strong resistance in the United States, where the invasion plans had been drafted. A climate adverse to a war against Nicaragua was gradually created. Finally, the plan was (?not implemented) on the days when it scheduled. Although temporary, this is a victory for all of us in the revolution. However, we must also note that it is a vivtory of the peoples and governments that mobilized themselves against Reagan's warmongering and unwise policy. These peoples and governments include those of Mexico, Cuba, Venezuela, the Soviet Union, the Nonaligned Movement, the Socialist International and many other organizations. It would take a long time to list them.

Yet, on the other hand, the danger of invasion remains. We must continue to make efforts to remove this danger forever because the situation has become complicated, as U.S. imperialism and its allies are not the only ones promoting a war. The genocidal Israeli Government is now apparently involved, too. It is an old enemy of the Central American peoples, a firm and proven friend of Somozism, the promoter of wars and the one responsible for the murders in Beirut.

For this reason, we must be alert and vigilant. We also have to be very attentive not only about what occurs on the border but also about what goes on in the country's interior.

Soviet companeros, we take advantage of this commemorative event to send, on behalf of the FSLN National Directorate, a fraternal greeting to the CPSU, the Soviet Government and the great Soviet people on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the USSR. [applause]

We also want to publicly express our appreciation for the solidarity you have given us in all the difficult moments our revolution has experienced. We have not forgotten that when U.S. imperialism used food as a means of pressure against us, the USSR immediately supplied 20 tons of wheat. We have also received credits to purchase machinery and equipment for agriculture, helicopters for the literacy campaign, medicines, etc.

This is just part of a long list of aid received from the Soviet Government, which it will surely continue to give for the defense of the revolution in all areas. [applause]

Soviet companeros, our people have high esteem for the achievements of the socialist revolution. We congratulate you and wish you continued advances for the benefit of peace and all the peoples who, like us, fight against imperialism and for the construction of a new society.

The socialist goal is a world without armament, with peace, friendship and mutual aid. Long live the friendship between Nicaragua and the USSR! [Crowd shouts: Viva!] Free fatherland! [crowd shouts: or death!] [applause]

HAVANA REPORTS WHEELOCK VISITING BULGARIA

PA251540 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock, Nicaragua's agricultural development and agrarian reform minister, arrived today in Sofia, capital of Bulgaria, for an official 3-day visit.

The Nicaraguan leader was greeted at Sofia's airport by Andrey Lukanov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers.

D'ESCOTO SAYS NONALIGNED MEETING U.S. 'DEFEAT'

PA231430 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman today said that the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement's Coordinating Bureau to be held in Managua in January is of vital importance to the revolutionary process. The foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Movement will be present in Nicaragua and their presence is very important at these moments when our country is being harassed by U.S. imperialism from Honduras. This meeting will be held from 10 to 14 January and is a great defeat for the United States in its useless attempts to isolate Nicaragua and its revolutionary process, D'Escoto said.

VISITING DPRK VICE MINISTER ON U.S. POLICY

PA231453 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] DPRK Foreign Vice Minister Kim Hyong-u today rejected the aggressive U.S. policy against Nicaragua. That policy is trying to provoke a confrontation in the Central American region.

The vice minister is on an official visit to Nicaragua. He heads a DPRK delegation that seeks to strengthen the relations between our governments and peoples. He said that the Nicaraguan people are building their political stability and reactivating their economy but that the United States, with its aggressive policy, is trying to destroy them with attacks promoted through the former Somozist guardsmen who operate from Honduras.

BRIEFS

EEC DEVELOPMENT AID -- The EEC will promote Nicaragua's rural development with a donation of almost $3 million, according to an announcement made by the FRG Embassy in Managua, which represents the EEC countries. [Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 22 Dec 82 PA]

CONSULAR AGREEMENT WITH GDR -- Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Nora Astorga and GDR Ambassador Gerald Mockle have ratified the Nicaraguan-GDR consular agreement that was signed in April 1980. This consular agreement is intended to strengthen bilateral cultural, economic and political relations. [Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Dec 82 PA]

RESERVE BATTALIONS RETURN -- Reserve battalions 3012 and 3013 received a warm welcome on their return to the city of Esteli on 22 December from duty in the mountains. [Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Dec 82 PA]

TEXT OF CASTRO SPEECH TO FEU CONGRESS IN HAVANA

FL221338 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 2245 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro at the closing session of the second congress of the Federation of University Students held at the Lazaro Pena Auditorium of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions in Havana on 20 December -- recorded]

[Text] [applause and shouts of Fidel, Fidel] Dear students, fellow countrymen: As you may recall, during the first congress, Comrade Machadito [Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura] had brought a prepared speech -- [laughter, applause] -- to close the congress, however, you forced me to speak. This elicited those Solomon-like remarks I made here and Machadito's speech had to be published in the newspapers. [laughter]

Therefore, this time -- taking that experience into account -- [laughter, applause] there being no other speeches, I unhesitantly decided to fulfill my basic duty to salute you and close the second congress of the FEU [Federation of University Students]. [applause]

It is not easy to give the closing speech of an event when one has not been able to participate in each and every one of the details and in every minute of the event's developments, but I have tried to remain as up-to-date as possible. I have read materials. I have, as a matter of fact, read the [main] report, all 34 pages. [applause] I have received reports of the discussions, and the questions of the universities and of the students is a topic with which I have always remained abreast. Therefore, I will try to fulfill my duty this evening.

The topic is far-ranging, so far-ranging that we could say it is infinite. However, I want to direct myself to some basic ideas. It is said, quite properly, that we have 40 centers of higher education, including the military centers, and that over 200,000 fellow countrymen attend these centers; that if in 1960 28 citizens of every 10,000 were enrolled in higher education, in 1982 180 of every 10,000 citizens are enrolled in courses of higher education.

Also, it is noted that 2 percent of our population is enrolled in higher education. This is actually said. But what a task, what an effort and how long has been the road to attain these quantitative and also, in part, qualitative results.

At the time of the revolution's triumph, the universities were closed. The number of university students at that time -- in the years prior to the triumph of the revolution -- was around 15,000. The make-up of the enrollment was totally distorted. Technical careers were very weak. Worker, peasant and humble sector participation in university studies was very rare and, in the few exceptions, participation was only possible through the enormous sacrifices of the students' relatives. At the time of the triumph of the revolution everything was lacking -- buildings, laboratories. There were only three university centers and some private centers, which were growing much more rapidly. Education was dogmatic, acquired by memory and divorced from practical studies and from scientific research.

Beginning with the first revolutionary battles against imperialism, the desertions of university professors began. Before the desertion, a purge was necessary. [antes de la desercion fue necesario, incluso, la depuracion.] The beginning was very difficult. There was no reason for university development to be left out of the revolution's great educational efforts. The base for the present development of our educational centers began with the literacy campaign. It began with the sending of teachers to the country's rural areas, particularly the mountain regions.

It began with the establishment of thousands upon thousands of classrooms. I believe they numbered over 10,000 at the beginning if I remember correctly. They say 10,000 in 1 day. Well no, the decree was signed in 1 day.

All that effort -- in which our young people and students played such an outstanding part -- but we did not have enough teachers. Yes, there were teachers in the cities, but there were no teachers available to send to the farm areas. It was necessary to call upon teachers known as volunteers, many of them students. Some were university students and others were secondary school students. That was a great effort made by the young people aimed at overcoming illiteracy in 1 year. This was followed by a subsequent effort called the follow on process. It was a special effort aimed at establishing, from the beginning, the principle that each child would have the opportunity to have an education; that each child would have a teacher and a school.

Many times the school was the shade of a tree or in a modified hut. Those efforts were made consistently for many years. Then came worker-peasant education. Later, as masses and masses of children were graduating into the sixth grade, the need arose to establish secondary education centers. And under what conditions, don't ask. There were not even enough teachers for primary education!

There were times when 70 percent of the primary teachers did not have certificates. We had to mobilize the mass organizations -- the CDR's [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution] -- every year to search for teachers. There were not enough [teachers] for that enormous group. Besides that, there was an exodus, not only of university professors but also of primary and secondary school teachers.

An enormous constructive effort was made in the primary as well as in the secondary schools to prepare teachers to confront that task and in the process be able to teach 1 and ½ million -- at one time it reached 2 million -- primary school students and over 1 million secondary school students, because there were also times when we did not even have enough high school graduates to go to the universities.

Other needs of the country -- such as the one I mentioned regarding teachers -- took away secondary school students, although there were not many. The defense of the country and production activities took away secondary school students. The first successes of the fight against unemployment also resulted in the fact that many young people had to leave their education to take part in production activities, and we did not have enough high school graduates.

In other words, along with the constructive efforts and the investment of resources a great human sacrifice had to be made in order to arrive at a point where today we have 200,000 citizens enrolled in higher education. Well, this great mass that makes up the FEU was born in 1959, 1960, or 1962. It was, for all practical purposes, born after the revolution or after the triumph of the revolution. Naturally, workers and peasants that had the opportunity to have an education joined this mass after the revolution, and that is why we have such a high percentage of workers in the total number of students attending higher education centers.

Important moments of this process were, for example: the scholarship plan, which provided the opportunity for students from rural and farm areas and from the poorer families to be able to participate in university studies; the university reform, it was an old dream, an aspiration and demand of all generations of students and revolutionary combatants.

It changed attitudes, worked out new plans, changed the composition of the student body, introduced the sciences as a basic element of university education and the Marxist-Leninist ideology to create the bases for subsequent development. There was the massive enlistment of university students into the factories and into production activities, while at the same time there was the massive enrollment of workers in the higher education centers and later, the assignment of important research centers to universities, such as the Cenic [National Scientific Research Center], the Censa [National Animal Health Center], the ICA [expansion unknown], the agricultural research centers that are the center of agricultural research and many other research projects, the manufacturing of student equipment for research projects and also for the country's development.

It was a big effort, requiring all kinds of resource investment, to establish and distribute university centers throughout the entire country. There was the plan to train teachers: an emergency method which consisted of relying on the more outstanding students from each class to carry out the role of teacher.

Today, we have around 10,000 university professors -- over 800 of them with science degrees -- and numerous installations and laboratories throughout the country. The plans for the development and construction of university installations are proceeding.

This can be said in 1 minute, but it has actually been more than 20 years of continuous work. We have only mentioned a few achievements. We could include, in addition to the reforms the educational improvement programs. Naturally, these ideas have been evolving over the years; they have gone through transformations and improvements. We can certainly not avoid this process, all ideas have to be renewed. They must be adapted to new conditions. They must be improved.

As we have said, we have reached these levels in terms of quantity and to some degree of quality, but we cannot, in any case be satisfied, despite the progress we have made, despite the great improvements described in the report between the prior congress and this one. We can never be satisfied with what we have achieved in terms of quality. I believe we will have to make a firm determination to continue to improve the quality of our university education. This is the reason you have been discussing new problems, quite different from the problems discussed during the first years of the revolution.

These improvements have been achieved with the efforts of our workers, peasants, intellectual workers, teachers; the good seeds left by revolutionary teachers; the teacher patriots who helped us so much in the development of education. These helped us so much to achieve this success, a success which can already be measured through all kinds of data as for example, having 100 percent of grammar school teachers with diplomas at the primary educational level, having tens of thousands of teachers at middle level, having many teaching institutes distributed throughout the country, having an entire system which does not only educate professionals and teachers, but develops them through postgraduate courses in which about 14,000 professionals are enrolled this year.

These are really impressive achievements, achievements which have been obtained with the effort, sacrifice, determination and courage of our people; in other words, these achievements have been obtained with the revolution, the revolution which began more than 100 years ago, a revolution remembered here tonight, from the time of the struggle of the Mambi Army up to the present; a revolution in which, as we have said on other occasions, the students themselves, particularly the university students, have participated in a very outstanding manner.

This participation began during the war of 1868. The execution of students in 1871 was due to the need -- the hate of the mother country -- to punish the spirit of rebelliousness among the students. Tens, hundreds of university students marched to the war for liberation and joined the Mambi Army.

This tradition was maintained throughout the struggle for independence and it continued during the republic. The students were always in the front rank of the struggle against corruption, in the struggle against oppression, in the struggle against colonialism, against imperialism. They struggled in the 1920's, in the 1930's, in the struggle against Machado, in the struggle against Batista, in the struggle against that long list of government officials made up of thieves, corrupt individuals and puppet regimes that afflicted our country.

The students participated in an outstanding manner in the last phase, in our last war of liberation. This enthusiasm you have demonstrated during the congress -- the rallies and marches -- remind us of those great struggles, with the same determination, the same firmness that students showed in the years after Moncada when they participated in many heroic deeds, fighting in the streets against the police, against the fire trucks, against the shots fired at them, against the most brutal repression of the Batista tyranny. The students not only fought in the streets, but also in the underground. They fought in the mountains and all over. In other words, the university students have always been very faithful to the revolutionary traditions of our country. Upon the victory of the revolution, the students joined the revolution in large numbers.

During the years of hard, difficult struggle, in this determined confrontation against imperialism, its threats and aggressions, the revolution always had the full support of the students from the very beginning, when they began to participate in all revolutionary activities, in all campaigns, in all efforts by massively joining the revolutionary national militias, joining as technicians in defense tasks, a cooperation which continued in subsequent years when the university students began to train as reserve officers. All this effort was capped with the massive incorporation of university students into the territorial militias. [applause]

We cannot forget that just a few days ago, on 11 December, there was a complete regiment of university students at revolution square. [applause] Throughout these last 24 years, they have participated in all important historic events, in the political struggle, in the ideological struggle, during the difficult days of when we had to clear the Escambray [Mountains], the mercenary attack at Giron [Bay of Pigs], the October crisis. Throughout those years of great political and social reform in our country -- beginning with the literacy drive and through the successive agrarian reforms, the process of proclaiming the socialist nature of the revolution, and of the Marxist-Leninist principles of the revolution -- they have participated. [applause]

Regarding the university students of the first years, beginning in 1959, one must say that despite the fact that their class composition was not the same as it is today for historic reasons, those who thought that such a student body would be against socialism, or against Marxism-Leninism, made a mistake, because revolutionary tradition and patrotic spirit were stronger in those student masses than were petit bourgeois prejudices.

The students of those first years of the revolution -- they were the foundation of those first years of the revolution -- they were the foundation for thousands and thousands of technicians working today in the revolution -- unhesitatingly gave everything to the revolution, their youth, everything.

Now, having reached maturity, they are giving everything to the revolution. This constitutes proof of the strength of the revolutionary ideas, of the strength of just ideas. This makes it possible for us to say today that there was neither a lapse or stain in the history of the revolutionary student body's support for the Cuban revolution. They were closely united with our workers and peasants in these struggles and were the foundation and the reason that we can assert today that we also have a revolutionary intellectuality. [applause]

That is very important, to have workers, peasants, students, intellectuals, manual and intellectual workers closely united. This explains why imperialism has not been able to penetrate the ranks of the revolution, how we have defeated its aggression and campaigns and how we have defeated, are defeating and will continue to defeat its ideological diversionism. [applause] There have been divisions where and, on the contrary, there will be increasingly more unity between manual and intellectual workers. Aside from this, all manual workers are studying and, to a certain degree, are intellectuals. All intellectual workers are capable of working with their hands; to a certain degree they are also manual workers. [applause]

Throughout these years -- something very honorable that must be taken into consideration -- the students, all students and, especially, the university students have always been present in every effort. They have helped to solve really important problems. Let us cite for example something we have always noted: Their participation in the solution of the insoluble, apparently insoluble, problem of intermediate level students with the creation of the Manuel Ascunce Domenech Pedagogic Detachment. [applause] This is nearly 10 years old.

It has contributed substantially to the education of what we could say are millions of youths, millions of them became their own teachers and at the same time became teachers of the future generations of intermediate-level students. The youth as a political organization, the Federation of Secondary School Students -- FEEM -- and the FEU have participated significantly in the organization of this detachment and its work. To a large degree, they make possible this large number and quality of university students that we have today. From the Manuel Ascunce Detachment emerged the Che Guevara Internationalist Detachment, which has already sent four contingents or generations of teachers to Angola and which has great prestige in both Angola and Cuba.

Now the Manuel Ascunce Domenech Detachment has been created. This has been done also with the participation of the youth, FEEM and FEU.

More than 4,000 students, well-selected students from the intermediate level are members. You, the university students, have organized the Mario Munoz Vanguard Movement and, very recently, have organized the (Píti Fajardo) Detachment which is present here. [Applause and chants in the audience] That is our youth, those are our university students. That is the quality we have. It is the continuity of the historic tradition, of the revolutionary tradition with new steps, and in a superior phase. There is nothing that is asked from the university students that is not solved. There is no cooperation, no matter how difficult, [that we request from them] that is not met with a positive response.

We have had many examples of that, but we can cite some. For the reasons we gave on 11 December, with the arrival of the military equipment scheduled for the 5-year period in less than 2 years, we needed university students, technicians, those who were training the armed forces were not sufficient. Another thing we have cited as an example several times is the spirit of our youth.

We needed a number of technicians from the specialties of electronic engineering and from other schools. We asked those students in their last year of those specialties to join the armed forces.

Out of 300 students, the 300, 100 percent, gave a positive and enthusiastic response. [applause and chants in the audience] Before this, we had some problems in the sugar mills. There were big sugar mills, important sugar mills, most crucial for our sugar industry, which lacked engineers and technicians. We explained that we needed hundreds of students from the senior year of the course to solve this problem. Contact was established with the youth. Contact was made with the FEU, and immediately -- in the first call -- the hundreds of technicians needed at the time made their presence known. [applause] They went immediately to the sugar mills. The number was expanded the following year.

Thus, in a very short period of time, thousands of students from the senior classes joined the sugar industry directly from the university. This was a shot of young and fresh, essential, fundamental blood in the arm of that so important branch of the economy. The results of their work can already be seen in more efficient harvests and better performance of the sugar mills. This idea led us to others, to organize a similar movement coordinated with the FAR to send thousands of intermediate-level technicians to sugar mills and sugarcane agriculture tasks.

This idea continues to generate new ideas, and then the formula for solving the problem of technical personnel in the steelworking industry and in basic industry was found. The same procedure was used. The idea of sending 100 students to Nicaragua from the senior class of the school of medicine came up. They were asking us for more physicians and we did not have them at the time. We again called on the students who were in their last year of medical school to select 100 and to send them there as interns to work and help in the hospitals under the guidance and education of the many graduate doctors we have in that country in order to do their internship there during their sixth year of school and to serve for 2 years providing medical attention. We again experienced the same situation; out of the 1,000 university students, 1,000 students expressed their readiness to go to Nicaragua. [applause]

It was not just the case of students requested for the armed forces; it was the need of an internationalist mission. This was a new phenomenon, new and unusual, even incomprehensible to many people. How was this possible?

This year the need for a new group of students emerged. This time there was a need for 200 students. We had about 2,000 students in their last year of medical school. An appeal was made to the medical students and out of the 2,000 medical students or more than 2,000 students, the more than 2,000 students expressed their desire to go to Nicaragua. [applause] Two hundred were chosen and they are now there. We then said, what we are doing in Nicaragua we can do in Cuba. We have problems in municipal hospitals, we have problems in rural hospitals. The idea is a bit more complex because it is related to the idea of improving the quality in all of these municipal hospitals, clinics and rural hospitals. This is also related to the idea of converting all of the country's medical centers into teaching centers. This idea developed only after we saw the excellent results of the work carried out by the first 100 medical students in Nicaragua due to their attitude, work and positive outlook. We said that we can do this in Cuba. We then asked the students in their last year of medical school if they were willing to go to any place in the country, to municipal or rural hospitals; one hundred percent of the students in their sixth year of medical school expressed their willingness to go to any place in the country. If they were willing to go abroad, they certainly had better reasons to go throughout Cuba. [applause]

We have problems with some specialities. We have deficiencies. The students have not shown a great aptitude for some specialties. These specialties are very important in medicine, for example, anesthesiology.

There are others for which we lack specialists. An appeal was made to the students in their last year of medical school; this problem had to be solved and we had to assign a determined number of students to these specialties to that they could then do their direct internship. Again 100 percent of the students expressed their willingness to to into these specialties. Therefore, we had more students than we needed for these specialties. In these cases we tried not to act like robots; if there were seven or eight students, we try to make lists, see the options, see the student's preferences among these specialties and try to select the students in accordance with their preference or aptitude. In many cases, students who were already working as aides in surgery and other medical specialties were willing to give up their specialty to go wherever it was necessary and to specialize in whatever field was necessary. Naturally, we believe it is more practical, in these cases, to keep them in their specialities when we see students with devotion to those specialties, the specialties they like most. In other words, we try to reconcile the personal preferences with the needs of the country, but the important thing is their unconditional willingness to do whatever is necessary to resolve a problem, their massive willingness, a 100 percent willingness.

This has allowed us to think of many things, useful and promising ideas in these fields due to the decision made by the students with regard to the specialties. As we said during the inauguration of the Centro Havana Hospital, we want all doctors to be specialists. We want the new graduate doctors to be specialists. This is possible when all of the students are willing. This is proof of a new morality, a new pride. I do not believe it would be utopian to expect a response of 1,000 students out of 1,000. They all have the same degree of enthusiasm for fulfilling their duty. We have proof that the enthusiasm is widespread and unanimous. In our society we now have new values and a new awareness of character, spirit and virtue. There is a new appreciation of these traits in our society. Therefore, in our society there is practically no one who is willing to challenge this new ethic, this new morality, this new dignity, even though for some people this means more difficulties and more sacrifices in carrying out new tasks -- because individual conditions are not exactly the same and family conditions are not exactly the same. However, there has not been a single student who, before their people, their fatherland, before their fellow students was willing to reject the fulfillment of a responsibility, the fulfillment of a duty.

This signifies, really and truly and in a proven manner, a new morality, because it simply was the case of an absolutely voluntary activity. That is why there are hundreds of students completing their final year in municipal hospitals. That is why the municipal hospitals will become educational centers. That is why the quality of services will be raised, because we will have professors in those hospitals, including the rural ones. Who would have believed it? Who would have dreamed it? That is why 272 students from the sixth year, after attending some lectures, after visiting several hospitals, will go to rural hospitals in January, 272 students from the final year. [applause]

In this manner everything is possible. That is why when we asked for teachers to go to Nicaragua, more than 29,000 offered their services. That is why when the gangs, armed, encouraged and organized by imperialism, murdered some Cuban teachers in Nicaragua, 100 percent of Cuba's primary teachers were offered [by Fidel] to teach in Nicaragua, [prolonged applause and chanting] because there is a new morality, dignity, consciousness. I am referring to these events because, more than any other argument, more than any other statement, they reflect realities. They give us an idea of what our university students are capable of doing and what they will be tomorrow if we continue working well, if we work increasingly better. We are well aware of the value that it has for the revolution and the country.

We could ask ourselves within the Latin American context -- to cite an example -- if this is possible in other Latin American countries. The imperialists have orchestrated great scandals because of the presence of our teachers and our physicians. They came back for a vacation, and they [the imperialists] did not say a word. When these 2,000 teachers went, they said they were special troops. Yes, they are special troops of education, culture, morality and dignity. [applause] Those teachers do their work in the most remote and isolated places under the most incredibly difficult conditions that can be imagined.

Look in other places and see if that kind of teacher can be found. Those teachers are teaching 100,000 children. The imperialists want 100,000 children to be left without teachers. Because the children do not have teachers, the imperialists have to pay salaries, a great salary, a super, super, great salary, [applause] and teachers cannot be found. And if the imperialists go to other places in Latin America to look for teachers, unfortunately -- I have to say it is a disgrace -- they will not find them, unless the teachers are offered millions, enough to make them millionaires. I would like to see those aspiring to become millionaires teaching in a thatched-roof hut [bohio], a very humble home of peasants with 10 or 12 in the family, where even the small hen or swine, if they have them, or the cow, if they have one, where everybody, including the animals, is inside the house, a place where the only available food consists of corn, if there is any. I would like to see those aspiring to be millionaires there.

However, we have the human beings, the teachers, by the thousands, by the tens of thousands ready to do that. I cite the teachers because they have been put to this kind of test, but I could cite physicians or any other type of professional or intellectual worker of our country. I am not speaking of manual workers, those who build in many places in the world, of our internationalist combatants, or our physicians and health workers in 26 countries.

Those are the extraordinary values, unbelievable. If this had been said 20 years ago, nobody would have believed it. Then there were no teachers to go to Villa Clara, or Escambray, or Sierra Maestra. The same was the case with physicians. That was the inheritance from the capitalist society, the bourgeois society, the egotistic society, which far from cultivating the best values of man, cultivates the worst instincts. Why do we have them? Why did we achieve them with the revolution, with the cultivation of the best values of the human being, with the feeling of solidarity, with internationalism, with socialism, with Marxism-Leninism?

We challenge any other system, any other doctrine to achieve among the masses of a people what socialism, what Marxism-Leninism, what the revolution has achieved among our youth and our people. [applause]

We are observing this every day, everywhere. It is an unquestionable sign of progress. It is obvious that the new generations will transmit that spirit still better: Those who today are in primary education, the Pioneers and those in intermediate-level education. We must continue to advance along that path, an encouraging path, in a world with so many problems, with so much egotism. We have more than enough reasons to feel satisfied, to continue to seek formulas and to find ways to develop that spirit of unity, of fraternity, of real solidarity among human beings.

You have discussed in this congress current problems, and there are many. We understand that the congress was very good, that there has been a profound spirit of criticism and self-criticism. I did not participate in the debates but I was able to learn about that spirit from the main report. I noticed all the problems that were taken up, and practically all were taken up. I know about the fundamental problems that were discussed in the congress.

I also know the results. I believe one of the prevailing points was the issue we call the willingness -- you have chosen to call it the total availability -- to fulfill any task. [applause]

You have examined very serious matters and have placed, in the midst of all your concerns about matters dealing with study and the quality of study, the issue of promotions with quality and the methods of studying, collectively and individually, the responsibility of each student to train technicians with optimum knowledge, with optimum preparation. That has been the focal point of this congress. I know you have discussed diverse problems and difficulties. Let us cite the educational bibliography, which came up in the discussions in the congress -- the matter of books and availability of books.

I believe this is an important problem, a justified and reasonable concern. I believe Armando [Hart] spoke here. Someone said Armando was very self-critical in his speech at the congress. It is good that Armando was self-critical. [applause] I hope he was self-critical on behalf of all of us for the share of blame we must bear. I know there are difficulties with books. However, we will not solve that problem with Armando's self-criticism alone. Armando's self-criticism can be a guarantee that the printing press which was acquired sometime ago to produce the short editions that are so necessary -- not a novel by Garcia Marquez -- but a book for a specialty in technology, in medicine -- something that only requires a small number of copies. The problems we have had with that printing press, with the personnel. I believe there are some problems with the resources.

I realized there were difficulties when I was asking about and concerned with the problems which the medical sciences detachment was going to have and, above all, with the number of books they had. There were difficulties with the books of the medical sciences' students. Some of these books are imported and many are printed here. Sometimes there are problems with the titles. Cuban professors are being encouraged to make the titles. Some because of the small number needed, are better to import; others are better to print here.

I realized there was something very seriously wrong and this was not the first time I have been concerned about books for university students. Some years ago we had that problem, those concerns. A number of measures were adopted, even new printing houses were built. We had no other alternative but to print some books and declare that scientific knowledge is a patrimony of mankind.

But in those days -- some 12 or 14 years have elapsed -- the number of students was one quarter what it is today. Now we have the same problem with many more students. Perhaps we will need some funds. We would have to determine the quantity.

I was telling Robaina and Comrade Lage that we should discuss this with the Culture Ministry and even the Education Ministry, which owns excellent printing houses. [laughter] Someone told me that the pedagogic institutes did not have so many problems with books that they were in somewhat better shape. Perhaps, we will have to determine quantities. Let us make an effort to find a solution to the problem of the textbooks now that the level of students has been raised so high.

In the case of the school of medicine, I learned a lot. I learned that because of that scarcity of books, the student cannot keep his books.

This is really unfortunate because after studying anatomy, microbiology, pathology or any of these subjects you are then left without textbooks after finishing the courses. You are then removed from just about all the things you have learned. You are not going to remember by heart all the things printed in those textbooks. We believe that you are going to need these textbooks for consultation practically all your life. [applause]

Many people like to write in textbooks; they enjoy writing all over them. Some even like to write a new page on the page of textbooks by writing comments. These are personal habits. It is presumed that this textbook is going to be used by another student who is going to find it full of writing. The new student is probably interested in other methods of studying, therefore the textbook becomes a headache.

A textbook is a very personal thing. We proposed to the comrades of culture [Culture Ministry] the idea of making an effort to start the courses by making available all the textbooks needed to all the students of the first year. This was done in a matter of weeks because the formation of the student detachments was about to begin. This was the idea for the students in the first year of medical school, but with the idea of extending it to the other medical students. The idea was to study textbook availability and the need to sell the textbooks to the students so they could keep them.

You can rest assured that the idea of selling the textbooks to students is by no means based on stinginess [laughter] or a question of getting some kind of income. That was not the question. As we could not implement this program with all the students, the basic idea was to sell the textbooks to a group of students and then extend this program to the other medical students and finally to all students at the university level. This is the program. Students were even given some help to pay for the textbooks. The textbooks were not sold at flea market prices [laughter]. They were sold at cost. They were sold at cost and not at the parallel market prices and -- let me warn you, I am not criticizing this at all [laughter] they solve problems -- they were sold practically at cost considering transportation, administrative and other expenses. The textbooks were sold very cheaply and students were even given aid to pay for them. Uniforms were also sold to them.

I repeat that we want to extend this idea to all medical school students. I believe that we have to keep this idea in mind for all university students. You cannot imagine the trouble I have got myself into [laughter]. Comrade Fernandez told me: Just think, textbooks should even be sold in grammar schools. I say once again that this has nothing to do with stinginess [laughter] or an economic solution for a country that spends 1.4 or 1.5 billion pesos in education, therefore, the income from selling textbooks will not solve anything. What is involved here is the problem of having to collect the textbooks every year; the hunting for textbooks [laughter]. We said, we are going to see whether the sale of textbooks saves paper or not. Fernandez said on one occasion during the meeting of the Executive Committee that possibly these textbooks will be passed on to a younger brother and then to another younger brother. I wanted to tell him that the ways things are right now, after one younger brother there will not be many other younger brothers, but [laughter] perhaps the textbooks will be passed on to a friend.

The idea of selling grammar school textbooks is not aimed at getting income, but is aimed at making savings and taking good care of the textbooks. This is why we are implementing this measure with university students so that they can keep their textbooks. We have already given a reason for this. We cannot go around giving free textbooks to some students to take home and not have enough for others. This is the first reason, therefore we had to plan on the basis of selling them. The second reason is that the students are going to have a different feeling about textbooks, therefore they will take better care of them. The basic idea is not to have to give textbooks to some students and leave others empty-handed. There is agreement on this.

However, I got myself into trouble. Fernandez said that Article 52 of the Constitution -- [I] did not remember Article 52 of the Constitution, now he says it is Article 50 of the Constitution -- established that textbooks must be free. I said,well that is fine, no one wants to violate the Constitution. We, who worked so hard for the Constitution, can now ask ourselves whether we did well in adding this detail in an article of the Constitution. What concept are we now going to give to the textbooks? We are not going to return the money to the students [laughter], the textbooks will be leased for life [laughter]. We will have to invent something [laughter, applause].

Just imagine changing an article of the Constitution [laughter] to resolve an important problem. This is the question. The jurists and courts will have to interpret this situation, or the National Assembly will have to interpret it because the National Assembly has constitutional powers. We do not want, we do not like, in the least, to touch the social legality that has been established in the Constitution. We will have to look to the specialists and I believe that we are not very strong in this field, in the specialties of the law, I believe we are not very strong in legal science but -- somebody there is protesting [laughter] -- we have to see how we interpret and resolve this situation. We have to resolve the problem of the textbooks. The idea is that, at least at the university level, the students have the necessary textbooks and be able to keep them, because they may need them for the rest of their lives. This is a problem we are now studying. You were right in bringing up this problem. This is not the only problem. You also vigorously disclosed the difficulties of studying and working in production and service centers as teachers. This was another point vigorously presented. We have to study what the problems are and how they can be resolved. As I said, these ideas and concepts on the development of our centers of higher learning have been evolving. At one time we established a determined number of hours which all university students had to contribute to factories as manual laborers.

Keeping in mind that we had already introduced the study-work program at the secondary level, it appeared to us that we could free the students of higher education from those hours of manual labor in order for them to get a better theoretical education and have the practical education come according to the outlines of their specialty. It was a decision we reached some years ago. Now we find that there are some difficulties in applying that principle. We have to find out which are objective factors and which are subjective factors.

You were also concerned about the problems related to the placement of university graduates. This is a very important question. We must create methods through FEU participation. You said you were encouraged by the good results of the preassignment arrangements. Now we must study the way to establish the method of placement taking into account the student's merits, placeability and his political-moral evaluation.

According to the comrades' explanation, you expended considerable energy in debating the matter of cheating and the struggle against it. Well, that is not unique. I don't know if you are aware of it, but the [medical sciences] detachment has a more strict regulation on the question of cheating.

Some of you were suggesting this or that punishment for cheating. In the teaching detachment...pardon me, in the medical sciences detachment cheating means final and definite dismissal of the student. There is no other way because of the nature of their speciality. Because we cannot conceive that anyone, who later will be responsible for a life, could be an academic cheat. The struggle against cheating must be tireless and intransigent.

You discussed problems related with the [word indistinct] hospital regarding the complex structure they have and FEU difficulties in attending to them.

It appears that the same thing happens regarding the young people -- the students -- attending the hospitals called [word indistinct]. I was asking for solutions. Solutions are being considered. It appears to be easier in the provinces. I believe there are some answers in Cienfuegos -- when the faculty and the hospital get together. You say the matter is more complex in the capital of the republic. I asked the comrades of the FEU and the youth to study, consult the party, and find a way to respond to those students' concerns.

You also brought out and discussed matters related to how students could express their concerns and the role which the FEU should play. I certainly thought very wise what was proposed in the main report: The need to take into account the real objective needs of our economy. Although it is not dealing directly with that, it is a good thing to keep it very much in mind. The fact that there are limitations in providing for such a large mass of students is real.

But here, we are addressing all those problems which can and should be solved, problems that can and should be attended to. We have guessed and sometimes we have asked: What are the problems in one place or another? I believe that the major problems are in Santiago de Cuba and Havana. I also believe there are problems in the Moa Mining and Metallurgical [Complex], according to what I was reading in the report.

All those problems were addressed. Other problems related with the work of the brigades, related with the students' vacation work -- those who committed themselves and did not show up, those who would show up and later would leave, and so forth -- were discussed. You also discussed matters related to culture, sports, recreation and so forth. That is why I was saying that you left no problem unreviewed. You studied the work accomplished between the first and the second congress. You studied the process of awakening consciences -- through which university students erased some small stains resulting from a little carelessness. This obliges us to recall once again that the price we pay for the revolution is eternal vigilance. Therefore we should not act carelessly.

We are supposed to be more selective, careful and more demanding; just as you have suggested in your congress. Perhaps it is true that we should change the entrance requirements.

Because of the establishment of the Carlos Finlay Detachment, new ideas regarding selection came up that were very important and very interesting. Some of these were the evaluation of the political-moral character of the student and analysis of the career before the secondary [school] commissions. I have been thinking of the possible advantages of gradually extending that procedure for the selection of students entering the universities. Of course, there is the [student's] record, because the computer alone can serve to select given predetermined parameters. We must consider that in the student and then go to the record.

It is essential -- and I may talk about this later on -- this matter of the fine selection of the students entering the universities. But finally, the congress has examined, however small, a series of questions of all kinds, some related with ideological and political education and the results of all those processes. It is a university with very high standards, where individuals who should not have entered were dismissed. We hope that this process of awakening consciences does not have to be repeated. Consciences should always have such depth that there should be no room to penetrate any deeper. [laughter, applause]

That conscience you were speaking of -- which exemplifies who our students are -- that process preceded the march of the fighting people. The march in which university students played such an active, militant and outstanding part.

It is our duty, the duty of the comrades of the party, state and youth leadership, to get together and study all these questions brought up in the congress and offer our best cooperation in resolving them. I believe that Armando [Hart, culture minister] has already promised that he was going to do something about the books, and we can modestly offer to do what we can about this and about the rest of the problems that have a solution and do not depend on human factors -- those problems that are up to us to resolve.

Now we must watch over this quality we have achieved in the university student body. That is why selection is so important. I know that you also discussed the passing rate. The passing rate is not high enough. We cannot be satisfied. Consider the resources we are investing. When we have an approximately 50 percent passing rate in the day student courses, it is low. This is due to various factors. In part, this is related to the difficulty of the university students' education. How good are the foundations of the university students -- those who enter the university? What difficulties do they encounter? Of course, the greater problems are encountered in the first years.

Again, in the farm areas we were able to observe some things that were not good in the [procedure for] entering the school of medicine -- the entry for workers. Now we have limited it. Basically, we have limited it to midlevel health technicians [tecnicos medios de la salud] who have received their certificates, have worked and studied and passed their examination. We are talking about the entry of workers [into the school of medicine], and for the first time the examination was established in the school of medicine. There was a very low passing rate among those who took the test.

Of course, because the programs had not been established for a sufficient amount of time -- a very long time -- an opportunity was offered. An age limit of 25 was established for regular studies in the school of medicine, because we already had thousands upon thousands of high school graduates -- thousands upon thousands of good students, with good records, who could enter studies at 18 or 19 years of age. It was not logical to allow a person entry through another channel -- whatever his qualifications -- who was 15 or 20 years older. [Therefore], we established the age limit of 25 for the regular studies and established the entrance examination.

Before this, it was possible to begin studies, but the person would fail within the first semester -- they could not cope with the difficulties. They were not well prepared. We saw many persons who did not have sufficient education enter this way. They were not able to get to the sixth year and were lost along the way.

Regarding the entrance [into medical studies] from the military services, this always seemed the most fair thing to us, because selection had already been established -- selection for high school studies, selection from high school graduates according to their records to enter the university and the midlevel technicians were fulfilling their military obligation -- [therefore, we had to] give an opportunity to those leaving military service to enter the university.

Regarding the medical detachment, recruiting was done among the good, reliable and serious young soldiers. We reduced the length of their military tour and placed them in school for approximately 20 weeks to polish up their education and to get them to study hard. When they took the examination not all passed. A minimum of 90 percent had been set for preuniversity students to enter the detachment.

We are going to extend this idea for all those leaving military service. I remind you that according to Resolution 20 there is still a group that can enter [the detachment] without going through these courses.

There are three schools already established for those leaving military service -- some of them 10 months in duration with a minimum of 6 months -- to study and polish up their education, and then take the examination.

We are going to establish midlevel schools. We have the installations -- midlevel installations. We have sufficient [schools] so that all those leaving military service who are midlevel technicians or high school graduates and want to enter university studies can go through those schools, polish up their education and take the examination.

Later, we are going to have to increase the requirements and the strictness of the evaluations and entrance tests, although we may always have a number of students who enter directly into the university as a reward for their excellent grades. We should always encourage a [good] record, we should encourage studies and encourage that possibility. That is why, in view of the experience we have been gaining recently, we must study and work hard on all matters regarding entry into the university, because that is going to be an important factor which is also going to affect the passing rate. I don't know if these comrades from the Carlos J. Finlay Detachment are going to disappoint [defraudar] all of us, but I hope that the number of them that complete the sixth year will be much higher than those before them.

We lose resources, energy, time -- we lose everything -- by entering twice the number to graduate half. Because we cannot relax the demands and strictness of the studies and education, then we must tighten our requirements for entry into the regular day courses of the university.

The courses and this kind of student are very important. We talk about having 200,000 students in higher level studies. Of these, over 76,000 are enrolled in day courses. They make up the FEU itself. There is a high number of them enrolled in evening courses. There are others enrolled in group courses and others in extension courses.

It would be good to clear up some points, since you have been reviewing the material and the remarks I made at the first congress regarding some concepts of the universality of university education. The circumstances are not the same in each field. For example, the situation in education is ideal. Since the bachelors degree for grammar school teachers was created, about 100,000 grammar school teachers will have an opportunity to engage in higher studies. These teachers are not hurting us in any way. If the teachers engage in higher studies they will get a bachelors degree. Therefore they will be grammar school teachers, but at a high level holding a bachelors degree.

A bachelors degree for nurses has also been created. The nurses can study and we will be delighted if all nurses eventually get a bachelors degree in nursing; their service will then be of a higher quality.

Well now, out of the 200,000 students, more than 70,000 are in the educational field, pedagogy. This is no problem, their jobs are secure. If there are too many teachers, they will form a reserve. These teachers can then go on to higher studies. We have more than 27,000 students in technological studies. This is a very important field needed by every developing country. In medical sciences we have more than 17,000 students. This is not a problem. We already said at one time that we do not know when we are going to have a surplus of doctors. If we keep in mind the national and the growing international demand, we have the possibility of having a doctor in every factory, school, ship and in every rural community etc; perhaps by the year 2000 we may have a surplus of doctors.

At that time the number of students entering medical schools could be reduced and medical facilities used to improve the quality of doctors. There are many possibilities. We are not worried about having many graduate medical doctors. We have more than 16,000 students of economics among the 200,000 students; we have more than 15,000 students of agricultural sciences; about 8,000 students of natural sciences and mathematics, etc.

What does this mean? What I am saying is that the number of students who are taking regular courses in various studies can either grow or decrease. I believe that the number of students will not grow in the forthcoming years. The number could increase slightly, it may even decrease; this will depend on the specialties and on the needs of the country. The resources are limited. We must devote our efforts to the consolidation of our education. The number of students may even decrease. I repeat, it does not both us if through other means and other courses all grammar school teachers get a bachelors degree and all the nurses get a bachelors degree in nursing.

Extension courses [cursos dirigidos] have been created. What is the meaning of universality in education? This means opportunity and the creation of means of education in accordance with the resources available in society so that everyone, without limitations, can study. Anyone who wants to get a bachelors degree in history can become an expert in history. Another student can study philosophy, art or other studies, etc. It makes no difference if the studies are done under the extension courses of if a person wants to study law or any other field. In law schools particular attention must be paid to regular courses, as there is a complete program for increasing the discipline in the study of law due to the needs of the country.

When we carried out the reforms, there were so many law students that we felt there were too many and in some ways regarded them as a symbol of the law of the past. We had to get more engineers, more specialists in the various fields of engineering and this is why the study of law was somehow neglected. We have now discovered that we need good legal science specialists in the courts, prosecutors' offices and in enterprise. Therefore we will also have to pay special attention to the regular law school courses.

I want to emphasize that a society must grant the opportunity to engage in higher studies in accordance with its resources. Logically, doctors cannot graduate in extension courses. They must attend well-organized day courses. It would also be difficult to teach engineering and other university studies through extension courses. The country must provide an opportunity for education through different courses in accordance with its needs, through morning and evening courses, etc. We have said that if a tractor driver becomes an engineer or wants to become an engineer, society should give him the opportunity to become a mechanical engineer. An effort must be made to give him that possibility. This does not mean that the tractor driver will be given the position of engineer in a factory. He would have to continue driving his tractor. I am not speaking of the present, I am speaking of the future. If a tractor driver becomes an engineer today, he will immediately be hired because there are many people who need mechanical engineers. I am not speaking of the present. I am not speaking of past years of great scarcity of university-level technicians when it was necessary to use all kinds of resources to get university technicians. I am talking about the future and logically that future will come. It will be a time when the number of engineers in a factory or a shop will be limited. Of course, if every tractor driver becomes an engineer this would be better for society and if society can give the tractor driver an opportunity to become an engineer, let him become an engineer; the same thing applies for people who want to become economists or experts in any other field.

I propose as an aspiration -- this must be an aspiration of society -- the giving of an opportunity to anyone who wants to engage in higher studies, but this principle is inconsistent with job allotment, it would not mean this in every case. The teachers being trained in teaching schools, the doctors, the engineers are going to have permanent jobs in their profession.

Well now, we have to be careful in the study of school admissions, in the structure of school admissions, particularly in the regular daytime courses. We have to be careful not to take a youngster who finished high school or finished the services into a daytime course and then not be able to guarantee him a job in accordance with the specialty he studied. We have to be very careful about this. Therefore, we must separate those studies which are considered necessary for the economy and the services -- which in the future must get their specialists basically from the students of the regular courses -- from those cases in which the desire for self-improvement or for having more knowledge are unrelated to the needs of the economy and the services.

The idea which I have always defended is that an opportunity should be given, as much as possible, to any individual to engage in any study he desires but the degree of society's commitment in relation to alloting a job to this individual should be clearly understood. We must be particularly careful with the students of the regular courses. It is not easy in today's world to say with mathematical precision what the needs for specialists will be. We have our needs and our needs do change. We also have the world's needs. The demand for Cuban technicians is growing. The demand for medical doctors abroad is growing. At this time, no one is prepared to say how many specialists we are going to need in the year 1995 or in the year 2000 because new situations are emerging and I believe the country must have a reserve of technicians.

However, it is important to establish the obligations of society in relation to those who are studying, the needs of the country's economy and services in relation to the many people who want to study. I support the idea of giving the greatest possibilities to people who want to study and this is why the extension courses have been established. We are not worried if the extension courses grow. They are not very expensive. I believe, however, that in relation to the regular daytime courses, as a rule, we must consolidate what we have and consider that this is a different situation; like the case of the tractor driver who is working and wants to become an engineer in comparison to the youngster who enters a technological institute.

If the equipment operator or the tractor driver become engineers, they will have to get more pay because their work will certainly be better. There is no doubt that extra knowledge is never an excess; it always helps in productivity. I believe that it is necessary to clarify these concepts. The delegates, the students and the brigades read their speeches. I even disclosed my aspiration of reaching 300,000 students by 1985. In reality, considering the present circumstances, I do not believe we should aspire to reach 300,000 students by 1985. I believe that in this 5-year period we must maintain, more or less, the level we have now. We should not increase the number of daytime students in order to prevent a surplus among some graduate students. We can increase the number of students in the extension courses if we have the personnel and resources for it. Of course, the principle of merit must prevail in student admission.

I absolutely agree with the criterion proposed in the congress that the most capable students, the students with the best merits, the students with great qualities and with better political and revolutionary preparation must have preference at the time of admission. These traits must be kept in mind at the time of admission. It is our duty to study and to find solutions to the problems presented by the congress.

The general impression of all the comrades who participated, who have been involved in the congress is very good. They said that the congress was very well organized, that it was carried out with responsibility and great quality. The problems are new. Solutions must be found to these new problems. We must continue forward. I am sure that we will continue to progress. We will see how the Third Congress behaves. We will see how all the agreements are fulfilled and we will see what the balance is in 4 years. I believe that your congress is held every 4 years, is that true? This means that in four party congresses, the FEU has held five congresses. Is this true? As long as I am able and you invite me, I will try to follow the result of the congress. [applause]

Comrades, I want to say that we are very satisfied with the congress, that we are happy, that it has been an opportunity to see the results of the work carried out over these years, that you deserve the recognition of our party and our people, that you deserve warm congratulations, that you deserve all the confidence we have in you and all the hopes we have in you. When we arrived here today we saw the enthusiasm of this congress. We saw you full of life. I also know that you are full of experience and that this experience will continue to grow, that you have a great deal of knowledge and that this knowledge will also be enriched.

We feel stimulated and rewarded to see a new generation like the one you represent. We feel that the problems of our country will be in the hands of men and women of your quality. We are stimulated to see the revolutionary spirit of this generation and we are full of optimism about the future.

We have accomplished a great deal, a great deal has been achieved. We are pleased to think that you will never feel satisfied with these achievements, that you will always try to reach higher goals. Tonight, you remembered Mella, Villena, Jose Antonio Echevarria, Frank Pais, Abel, Che. You remembered them with affection, respect and pride. If one goes back into the past to think about their experiences, the life they lead, the life they lived; we realize that when they fought, when they founded the FEU 60 years ago, a day like today, they were full of dreams, full of hope in the future. They wanted these things. They wanted these results. A thought just came to my mind, something that happens to us revolutionaries; revolutionaries have always been accused of wanting impossible things, of wanting utopic things. Marti was at one time accused of being a dreamer. Marti responded that the dreams of today are going to be the laws of the future. It has always been said that these tasks could not be carried out, that they were impossible, but in my revolutionary life I can say that the achievements made are many times more exalted than dreams. [applause]

I do not know what kind of dreams Mella and Villena had about the future of the country, about the future of the universities, about the future of the students and the people. We are already talking about 40 university centers, 200,000 students. We are talking about this pride, this morality, this dignity, this awareness, this spirit our youngsters now have and of what they are capable of doing. We speak of our people's attitude and total commitment to every task no matter how difficult but I do not know if our heroes' dreams were below this reality. That is, I do not if this reality is more than their dreams but I am convinced that all those heroic fighters, those pure revolutionaries which you have mentioned tonight would be proud of all of you. [applause]

Therefore, let us dedicate this excellent second FEU congress, on its 60th anniversary, to the memory of Julio Antonio Mella and to all heroes and martyrs of the student body, heroes who came from the ranks of students, who came from the ranks of our extraordinary youth. Fatherland or death, we shall win.

CASTRO SENDS CONGRATULATORY NOTE TO USSR

FL231744 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1504 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] The Soviet daily PRAVDA today published the text of the congratulatory message sent by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the formation of the USSR.

The message of the Cuban leader is addressed to Yuriy Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU, and USSR Prime Minister Nikolay Tikhonov. The document states that now that the imperialists are using the language of arms, the existence of the USSR and its Leninist peace policy represent the most solid obstacle in the path of imperialism's absurd policy.

The message stresses that the Cuban people will never forget that during the difficult days it was able to count on the unselfish aid and fraternal solidarity of all peoples in the USSR.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MARKS USSR 60TH ANNIVERSARY

FL280108 [Editorial Report] Havana Domestic Service in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 27 December begins live coverage of solemn ceremony held by the National Assembly of the People's Government to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the formation of the USSR.

The announcer reports at 2301 GMT that President Fidel Castro has arrived and the ceremony will soon begin. The band plays the national anthems of Cuba and the USSR.

Flavio Bravo, president of the assembly, declares the special solemn ceremony open and invites the assembly's vice president, Jorge Lezcano, to explain the motive for the ceremony. Lezcano calls the founding of the USSR the most significant event of the century and, after praising the Soviet Union and its people, ends his 4-minute statement and introduces USSR Ambassador Konstantin Katushev.

In his 30-minute speech, Katushev talks about the sacrifices, courage and great efforts of the Soviet people during World War II, refers to the outstanding accomplishments of Soviet science and technology, citing examples such as the first flight in space by Gagarin, and hails the solidarity of the Soviet people with all nations fighting for freedom and independence.

Referring to Cuba, Katushev states: "Cuba's example has had a great impact on the struggle of developing countries against imperialism and neocolonialsm. Cuba's influence is mainly due to the gains attained in the economic and cultural development, in the solution of social problems and in the well-being of its people. Cuba's example is also manifested in the internationalist aid to peoples struggling against imperialist aggression and for the right to determine their destinies.

"Wherever there is a battle for freedom, be it the Middle East, Latin America or Southeast Asia, Cuba is always at the side of a just cause. During these first years of the Nicaraguan revolution, Cuban teachers, physicians and construction workers are lending their services to that country to solve vitally important problems for Nicaragua. Vietnam, Laos, Angola and Ethiopia as well as scores of other states have known the sure help of the Cuban friend, a modest, loyal and unselfish person.

"As chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, Cuba has made a great contribution to the struggle against the aggressive policy of imperialism, which instigates contradictions, conflicts and wars everywhere. Cuba has taken a stand against the spoilation of natural resources of developing countries and for the establishment of a new international economic order. All this has made Cuba worthy of high prestige in the international arena as well as gained the love and respect of all peoples."

Elsewhere in his speech, the USSR ambassador states: "As soon as an oppressed people begins the struggle for freedom and independence, the lackeys of imperialism immediately complain about Moscow's meddling and the Kremlin's intrigues. Lately, the imperialist subversive campaign has been disseminating lies about alleged Soviet-Cuban expansionist aims. All this rhetoric is nothing more than a despicable attempt to cover up imperialism's true objectives, that is to maintain its domination unchanged. At the same time the imperialists do not cease to undermine the unity of socialist countries and destroy the ties of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Cuba. In his 11 December speech Comrade Fidel Castro gave the response that these useless intrigues deserve.

"Let it be known, Messrs imperialists, he said, that we are not the mind of people who break ties with friends to become allies of enemies. Comrades, this response has had a great impact in our country. Messrs imperialists, let it be known once and for all that Cuba is a sure link of the world communist community, that it is not alone and that it will never be abandoned." [prolonged applause]

At the conclusion of Katushev's speech at 2342 GMT, Lezcano introduces Flavio Bravo.

In his speech, Bravo mostly talked about the justness of the Marxist-Leninist ideology, its impact throughout the world on oppressed masses and the example set by the Soviet people. He praised the USSR Government for its accomplishments in science and technology.

Bravo says: "The Soviet people, led by its glorious Communist Party forced changes in bourgeois hopes as well as in the direction of history. Today it is evident that the Soviet Union's example gave strength and encouragement to social and national liberation movements everywhere on earth. Cuba is an eloquent example of that. Since its founding, all vile forms of struggle have been and continue to be used by imperialism, such as armed aggression, economic blockade, political blockade, daily lies, infiltration of spies and saboteurs and ideological diversionism. All of them, however, have dashed against that impassable bulwark which is the monolithic unity of the Soviet people."

In closing, Bravo hails friendship with the USSR and wishes the Soviet people more successes, health and happiness.

Coverage ends after the Internationale is played.

RAUL CASTRO PRESENTS AWARD TO LENIN ACADEMY

FL231730 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1502 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Army Gen Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of Cuba's Communist Party and FAR minister, today presented the Antonio Maceo Order to the Lenin Military Political Academy of the Soviet Union. The award was conferred on that institution for its merit merits in the training of highly qualified political cadres for Cuba's FAR.

Raul, who pinned the Antonio Maceo Order on the combat flag of the Lenin Academy, stressed at the solemn ceremony that strong ties of friendship and multilateral cooperation exist between Cuba and the Soviet Union, and congratulated the Soviet people for the 60th anniversity of the USSR founding. He noted that the excellent training received by the Cuban graduates at the Lenin academy constitutes a great contribution to raising the level of our country's defensive capability. Cuba's combative fraternity medal was also presented to 30 professors of the Lenin Academy. The medals were pinned on the chests of the professors by Raul, who is in Moscow at the head of the Cuban delegation attending the festivities marking the 60th anniversiary of the founding of the USSR.

On behalf of the professors, Col Gen (Yenadis Freidis) expressed gratitude to Cuba's Communist Party, Government and people for the high evaluation of the educational activities being conducted at the institution. In addition to Raul and the delegation accompanying him, the chiefs of the principal Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy were present at the ceremony held at the Lenin Academy.

ANPP OPENS THIRD REGULAR SESSION IN HAVANA

FL271726 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1602 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Text] Three important bills will be submitted for debate and approval during the third regular session of the second legislature of the National Assembly of the People's Government -- ANPP -- which opened in the Palace of Conventions at 0900 today. The session opened after 1 minute of silence in memory of Raul Roa and our dear Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev. The bills for the innovations and rationalization of the economic and social development plan for 1983 and the 1983 budget will be submitted for debate and approval. The ANPP is going to hold a special session on the 60th anniversary of the USSR today.

State Council Seat Filled

PA280446 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Dec 82

[Text] The Cuban National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] began its third period of sessions at the Palace of Conventions in Havana and approved an important law to regulate and define innovations and rationalizations [racionalizacion], which have increased in our country during the past two decades as a result of the difficulties caused by the imperialist blockade. The new law protects the rights of those engaged in this type of work, as well as establishing the main characteristics of the National Association of Innovators and Efficiency Experts [ANIR] and the ANIR's right to represent its members in Cuba and abroad in order to determine ownership of inventions. At the morning session this Monday the Council of State submitted a report on its activities from December 1981 to November 1982. During this period the Council of State approved 13 law decrees, including one on the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Jorge Lezcano, vice president of the ANPP, was chosen to occupy the position left vacant in the Council of State by the death of Raul Roa Garcia.

A report approved this Monday at the third period of sessions of the Cuban ANPP being held in Havana notes that its international activities increased markedly this year. The document adds that this is due to the solid prestige of the Cuban revolution, to the consistent application of the principled policy that guides the Cuban Communist Party at the international level and to the success of the IPU conference held in Havana.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

HAITIAN SUSPECTED OF ARMING EXTREMISTS, EXILES

PA252250 Paris AFP in Spanish 1629 GMT 25 Dec 82

[Text] Santo Domingo, 25 Dec (AFP) -- Hilertaut Dominique, who was arrested last Wednesday in Santo Domingo while trying to smuggle a shipment of weapons into the country, is a "professional international terrorist," according to reports leaked to the press.

Santo Domingo newspapers pointed out that Dominique had recently visited the Dominican Republic three times, and that he also traveled to Libya, the GDR, Angola, Cuba and Nicaragua.

A native of Port-au-Prince and a journalist and lawyer by profession, Dominique arrived in Santo Domingo with three forged passports: one Venezuelan, which he used to enter the country, and two Haitian, to be used for any contingency.

Authorities suspect that he recently participated in an unsuccessful attempt on the life of Haitian President for Life Jean Claude Duvalier, as well as other international terrorist acts, and that he is connected with Dominican extremists and exiled Haitians living in Santo Domingo, for whom the weapons were intended.

The arms brought in by Dominique, which included 8 machineguns, 8 Uzi machine pistols, 4 M-16 rifles, 11 pistols of various calibers and communications equipment, were well camouflaged as Christmas presents. The authorities were especially amazed at the ease with which the Haitian brought the weapons to Santo Domingo from Miami, where he supposedly bought them.

Dominican National Police Chief Maj Gen Jose Hermida Gonzalez said that Dominique is being "thoroughly investigated," and the investigation is "well advanced." The Dominican security corps is especially interested in determining Dominique's connections in the Dominican Republic. The police chief said that the conclusions of the investigation will be presented to President Salvador Jorge Blanco, who will determine "the appropriate measures to be taken."

ECUADOR

MINISTER DENIES WEAPONS SENT TO ARGENTINA

PA251707 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Maj Gen Jorge Maldonado Mino, national defense minister, has denied that our country gave military aid to Argentina during the Malvinas conflict.

In reply to a question regarding a statement that retired Gen Richelieu Levoyer made in this respect, the defense minister said that the armed forces' capacity for defense has not diminished at all. I would say, rather, that on the contrary, it has increased. What I mean is that we have not delivered any weapons to Argentina, he added. [sentence as heard]

As we all know, General Levoyer, who made these charges, recently formed a new political movement known as the Progressive Political Alliance. [Alianza Politica Progresista; name of party previously reported as Partido de Accion Patriotica Progresista] Levoyer recently held important positions in the armed forces, and, so, his opinion stirred the interest of the Ecuadorean public.

General Maldonado Mino added that a similar public accusation had recently been made and that the National Defense Ministry then issued a clarification because public opinion was entitled to it and to prevent any confusion. However, the general added, I do not think it is necessary for the defense minister to go over the same subject every time a politician wants to campaign for himself or get on the news, not to mention when the subject pertains to national security, in which case I cannot be too explicit.

Asked if General Levoyer would be punished, General Maldonado said no, since Levoyer is presently a politican, exercising his right to give his opinion. Of course, according to professional ethics, the defense minister said, one must be reserved on matters related to national security.

GUYANA

JAGAN CALLS FOR REMOVAL OF BURNHAM GOVERNMENT

FL251229 Bridgetown CANA in English 2039 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 24, CANA -- Leader of Guyana's Marxist opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP), Dr Cheddi Jagan, has alleged that the Forbes Burnham government has retrenched more workers in Guyana in 1982 than all other Commonwealth Caribbean countries put together. Dr Jagan claimed that 12,000 Guyanese workers had lost their jobs this year.

He was speaking yesterday at his year-end press conference at which he renewed his call for the unity of "progressive forces committed to democracy, anti-imperialism and socialist direction" in order to remove the ruling Peoples National Congress (PNC), by strikes and other protest actions. "The time has come when the Guyanese people must arrest the outrageously incompetent and callous PNC which poses as government of our republic." Said Dr Jagan, "the PNC regime must go."

He said that the ruling party, along with imperialism were the two main problems facing Guyana, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) solutions proposed by the PNC were part of Guyana's crisis and "will only lead us further down the pathway of doom."

Guyana is experiencing severe foreign exchange problems.

Speaking of his party's boycott of the recent inaugurated Supreme Congress of the People, Dr Jagan said the Congress was "a fraud and waste of money for a big show to fool people there is democracy in Guyana." "Look at the results" he said. "It only rubber stamped the decisions of the minority ruling party."

His own solutions for the current economic crisis in Guyana would be to give major subsidies and incentives to producers in the agricultural sector and develop Guyana's resources such as bauxite and gold in collaboration with the Soviet Union. "President Burnham signed a perfectly good agreement with the Soviet Union in 1978 under which the USSR offered to buy Guyana bauxite," said Dr Jagan, "but instead of acting on it, our alumina plant is now inactive for over three months while Jamaica's Edward Seaga is selling bauxite to the Soviet Union."

Dr Jagan was also severely critical of the state owned media, charging that when it does carry statements by his opposition party it distorts and abridges them, deleting the most important points. He also suggested that far more coverage should be given to issues of international peace and efforts to avoid a nuclear holocaust. "We haven't seen anything in local press about (U.S. President Ronald Reagan's) zero option proposals for reducing nuclear arms nor of the USSR's counter proposals," he said.

URUGUAY

COUNCILMEN CRITICIZE ARISMENDI ECONOMIC POLICY

PY211913 Paris AFP in Spanish 1557 GMT 15 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 15 Dec (AFP) -- Harsh criticism was leveled in the Council of State against the Uruguayan Government's economic policy. Charges were made that there was a lack of imagination and that the policy imposes a burden on the agricultural sector, "which is experiencing the worst crisis in Uruguayan history, and on workers in general, each time there is a lack of money."

Several members of the legislative body, which since 1973 has replaced the dissolved Congress, stated that those who told the people to trust in the economic policy and who are to blame for the present national situation, should give an account of their actions.

Criticism was aimed at former Economy Minister Valentin Arismendi, who implemented a tight monetary policy control until the end of November when he put in force several measures, among them an increase of taxes on exports and a free floating dollar rate that caused a devaluation of 130 percent.

Some councilmen wondered whether there was no other solution to Uruguay's economic problems other than increasing taxes and establishing new ones, the heaviest part of which will have to be endured by the agricultural sector and in particular by the workers in general.

When someone tried to defend Arismendi, a councilman noted that those who trusted in his policy have been affected the most "while speculators have been the only ones to benefit by the changes made."

During the meeting, some councilmen refused to merely rubber stamp these measures. One of them demanded the repeal of taxes on salaries, since in view of the enforcement of the recent economic measures, they are completely meaningless.

He noted that when he approved this tax last June, Arismendi justified it as an alternative to avoid a devaluation and that since this was not achieved the tax should be repealed. The councilman adeed that it is not logical to continue taxing salaries "since it generates opposition among the population and causes unrest among the lower-income sectors."